MOUTH of the RIVER

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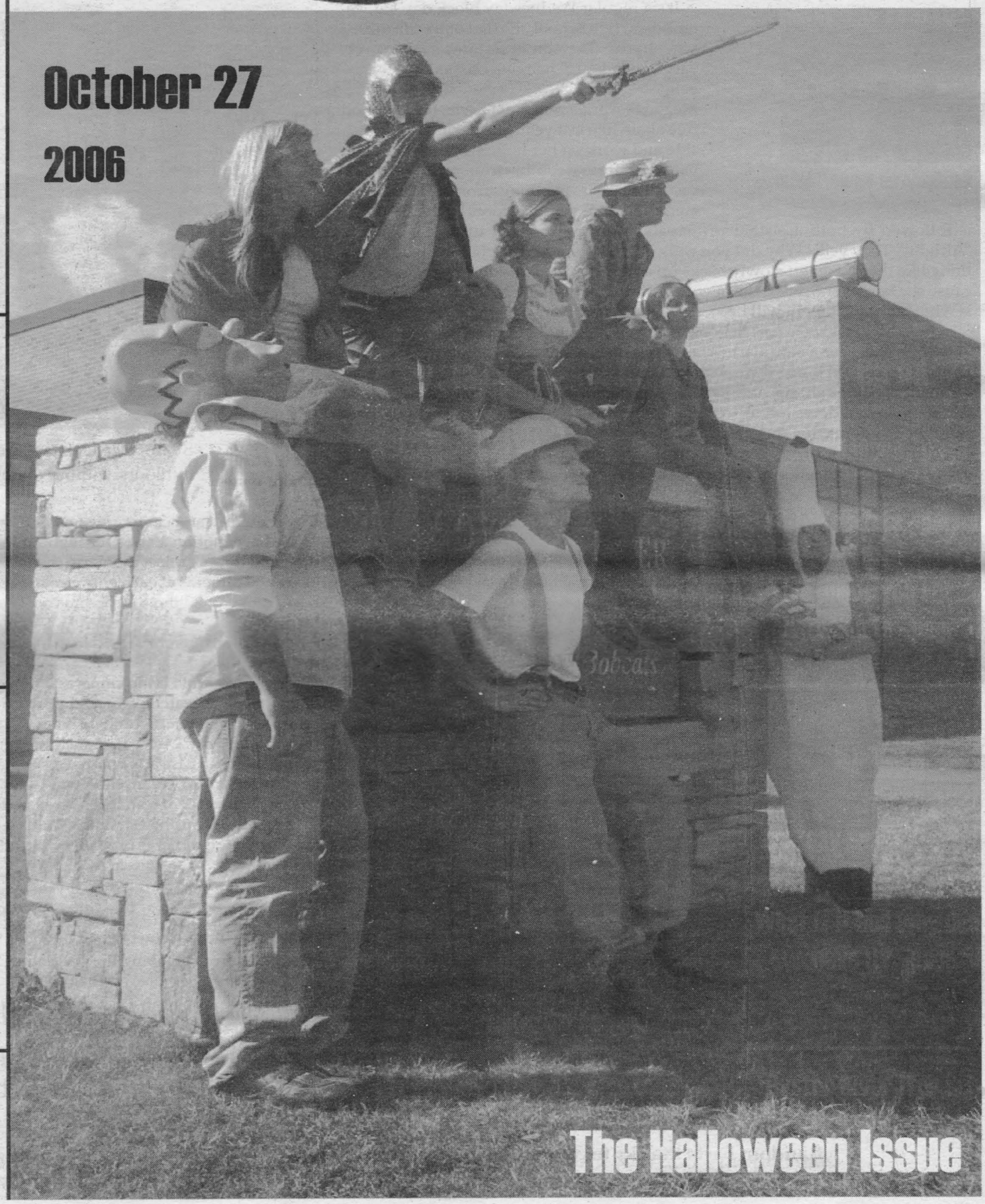
Oyster River High School
55 Coe Drive
Durham, NH 03824



Are you being watched?: Concerns about the New Safety Precautions at ORHS

CaitlinByrne News/Features

It's a regular Wednesday block day at Oyster River High School; the first of the 2006-2007 school year. The sun is shining in the courtyard and kids are changing classes between the bells.

Megan Sievert, a senior at ORHS, has B period free again like last year. She decides to go outside and work on her homework in the courtyard; her normal routine from junior year. She casually gathers her things from inside the cafeteria and walks out the doors by the shop. She is followed by both assistant principals sprinting to catch up to the culprit. "Alright!" They yell. "Why did you walk out that door? Why would you do something like that?" Sievert slowly backs up and walks back inside embarrassed, because she knows she set off the new alarm system. All that Sievert can think about is what her punishment will be…

Though Megan's scare was fictional, this year this could happen to any students at ORHS. This year a new alarm system has been activated in which according to Laura Rogers, ORHS's new principal is supposed to "promote a safe school environment". Although this new system is supposed to provide these securities at ORHS, many students are upset because they feel like these changes limit them from the freedoms that they once had.

"I feel it limits us in regards to tardiness and if for some reason I needed to run to my car to get something and I wanted to have a friend to hold the door for me so I wouldn't have to walk to the front office, I cannot do that anymore. It's very frustrating when you are used to something and then all of a sudden after two years of being able to that privilege is gone," Kendra Davis, a Junior at ORHS, explained.

Rogers, explains that the alarm system was not a new idea: it had always been planned for the High School.

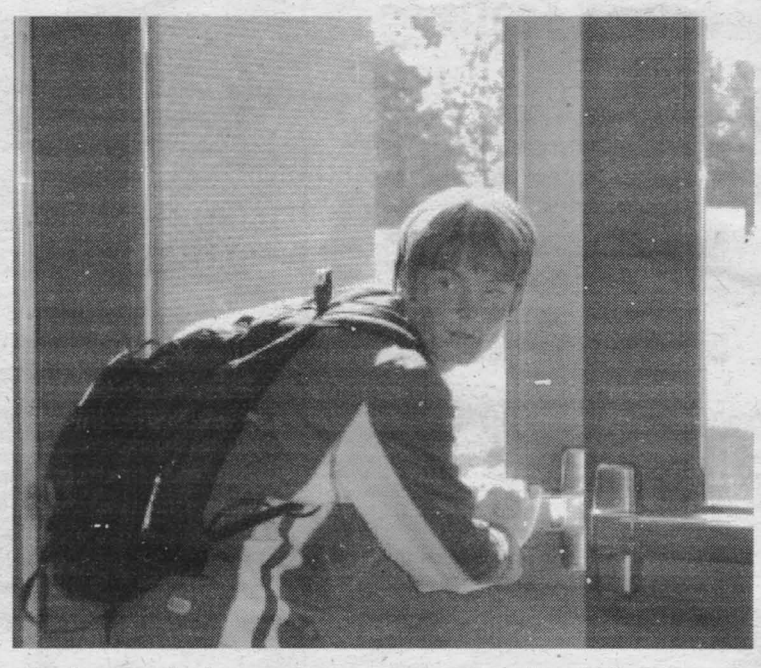
"This system has been on the 'punch list', which is a list of things left to do after construction, since the plans to remodel the high school. It just so happens that this is the year that we've finally been able to get the workers back in here to reinstall the system," explained Rogers. She continued saying that the overall perception that this was her idea because she was new was not a true statement. It just so happened to be coincidental that the alarm system could be installed this year.

> *"The main idea of installing these cameras would be to prevent theft and be able to discipline the individuals, not the entire school for one person's mistake." -- Dave Evans*

Another puzzling question that arises with the installment of this new system is the idea of cameras being installed at ORHS. Dave Evans, one of the assistant principals of ORHS, feels that cameras would not necessarily be installed for security purposes as much as the prevention of theft in our hallways and locker areas.

"Our main concern with the cameras would not so much a safety issue because we are in a generally safe area in Durham. The main idea of installing these cameras would be to prevent theft and be able to discipline the individuals, not the entire school for one persons mistake." Evans Continued in saying that maybe the administration is too trusting because theft has become more of an issue at ORHS.

One of ORHS's neighboring high schools, Dover High School, has very thorough safety precautions with regards to their alarm and camera systems because of the size of their student body. Joanne Eaton, the facilities director at Dover high school commented on Dover's alarm and camera system and the reasons they have one installed.



Senior Pat Jackson attempts to make a break for the outdoors without distubring the alarms.

"We have motion alarms throughout the schools so that if anyone comes in any door and doesn't unset the alarm then I receive a call from the dispatch center. We also have cameras at each entrance in the High School as well as the cafeteria. We have a total of 13 indoor cameras and 3 outside cameras that cover the parking lot."

Kay Mullin, a senior at ORHS, had a mixed reaction to these new ideas arising in Oyster River.

"I guess I wouldn't mind cameras if they were in the parking lot, but I would feel like someone is watching me if they were in the hallways. I agree that theft is a big issue, but cameras? I would just feel so violated." Mullin went on to say that she understood why Dover had such drastic security measures, "They area bigger school which in case adds more worry that something could go wrong. I think it's good for that particular school but for Oyster River, I just don't know."

Though this talk of cameras is relevant Rogers has put Mullin's concerns to rest.

"The budget for the cameras would have to be approved by the district which means that the cameras probably wouldn't be installed until the 2007-2008 school year."

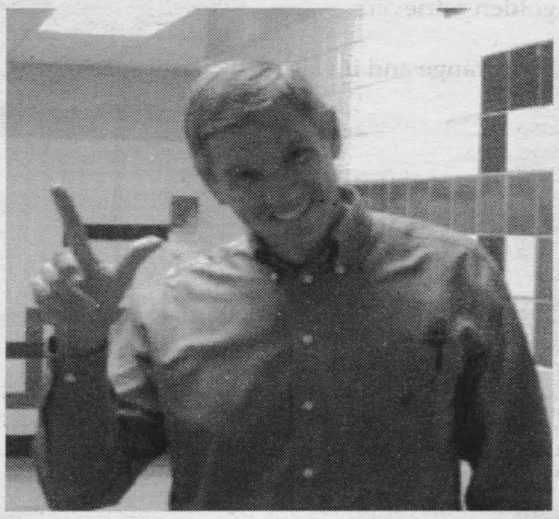
So with the start of the school year under wraps, and with the overwhelming number of recent school shootings it makes everyone in ORHS's atmosphere are these safety precautions a good idea? Or will these ideas continue to limit Sievert and others from enjoying the freedoms ORHS once had?

How do you feel about this issue? Questions or Concerns? Submit a lettor to the editor!

Random Facts thanks to: www.holidayinsights.com, www.jackolanterns.net, www.religioustolerance.org, www.pumpkinmasters.com, www.crewsnest.com, www.halloween-safety.com

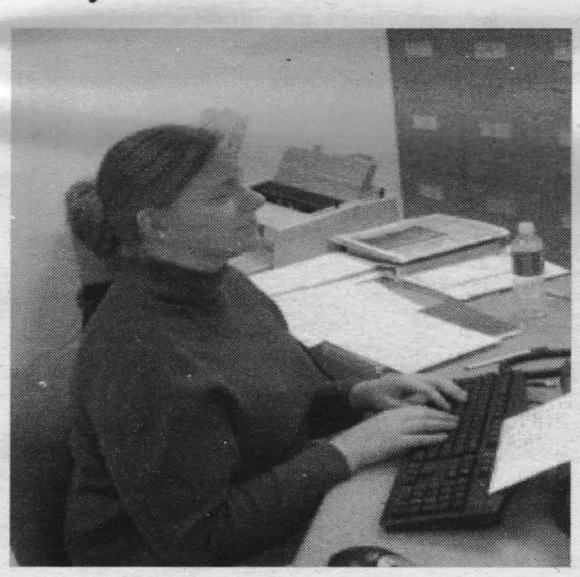
New Faculty and Staff at ORHS

Sub-Coordinator: Robert Heuchling



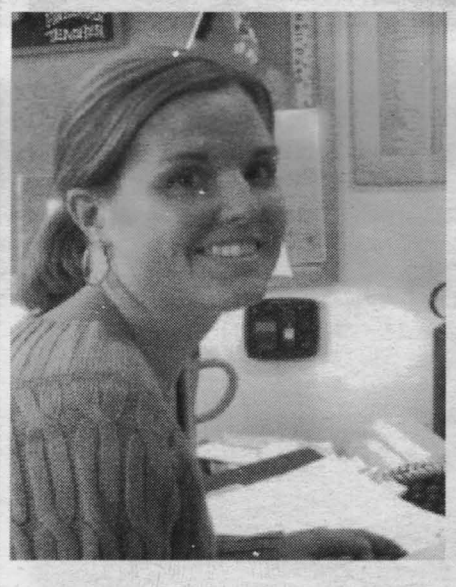
1. What do you like most about your job?
   Meeting new students because I am a lot of different classrooms.
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Tennis, Skiing, Wakeboarding, Cycling, Woodworking
3. What was your first car?
   1961 Triumph TR-3
4. Are you married/do you have any kids?
   I am married and had two children. My son passed away.
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Red Sox
6. Coke or Pepsi?
   Diet Coke with Lime
7. Favorite Kind of Music?
   Classical Rock
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   The fact that most kids are very interested in learning.
9. Do you have any secrets that you would like to share?
   I can eat a whole pint of ice cream in one sitting. Although, it has to be Ben and Jerry's.
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    A set of Encyclopedias.

Guidance Secretary: Emily Ricker



1. What do you like most about your job?
   Working with the students
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Not really
3. What was your first car?
   An old Ford Truck
4. Are you married/have any kids?
   No
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   I don't really like sports
6. Coke or Pepsi
   Neither
7. Favorite kind of music?
   Everything except Country
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   I really like all the kids
9. Do you have any secrets you would like to share?
   No
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    A radio

Special Education Teacher: Kim Cassamas



1. What do you like most about your job?
   I love working with the students
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Traveling and spending time with friends and family
3. What was your first car?
   A Ford Topaz
4. Are you married/do you have any kids?
   Married, no kids
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Red Sox
6. Coke or Pepsi?
   Coke
7. Favorite Kind of music?
   Top 40, but I like everything
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   School spirit
9. Do you have any secrets that you would like to share?
   Nope
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    A good book

The fastest time to carve a face into a pumpkin is 24.03 seconds, by Stephen Clarke (USA), who broke his previous record on July 23, 2006

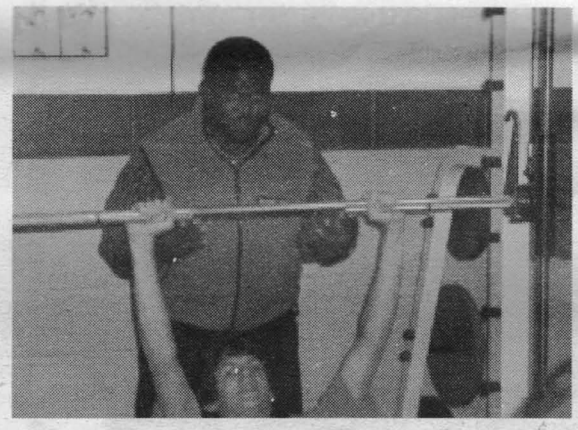
Drama/Acting Teacher: Mrs. Caple

1. What do you like most about your job?
   I love the fact that I combine my love of theater with my love of high school students.
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Gardening, guitar, and I have two golden retrievers
3. What was your first car?
   An Opal which is a German car. It was orange and it was really loud.
4. Are you married/do you have any kids?
   Yes, and I have two sons.
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Red Sox
6. Coke or Pepsi?
   Coke! Diet Coke.
7. Favorite Kind of music?
   Right now, it's the music my son plays in his band; kind of rock/metal/emo.
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   The creativity of the students
9. Do you have any secrets that you would like to share?
   I'm really shy, deep down.
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    My guitar.

Front Office Secretary: Kate Griffin

1. What do you like most about your job?
   The variety, it's not the same thing everyday. I also like working with Ms. Rogers and Ms. Miale
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Ceramics, making jewelry and scrap booking
3. What was your first car?
   68' Chevy Impala
4. Are you married/have any kids?
   I have one daughter
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Red Sox
6. Coke or Pepsi
   Coke
7. Favorite kind of music?
   Country
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   I like working in Durham and I like all the kids.
9. Do you have any secrets you'd like to share?
   No
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    Chocolate

PE Teacher:Imion Powell



1. What do you like most about your job?
   Having the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life.
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Personal training, coaching
3. What was your first car?
   1979 Toyota Corolla
4. Are you married/do you have any kids?
   Yes, I am married and I have 3 kids.
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Neither
6. Coke or Pepsi?
   Neither
7. Favorite Kind of music?
   Old School Soul Music (Temptations, Isley Brothers, Marvin Gaye, Four Tops)
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   Friendly, Nurturing Atmosphere (faculty, staff, kids & parents)
9. Do you have any secrets that you would like to share?
   No!
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    My Family

Halloween also is recognized as the 3rd biggest party day after New Year's and Super Bowl Sunday.

The woman behind the name: Laura Rogers, Oyster River High School's New Principal...again

Caitlin Byrne News/Features

Did you ever wonder if Meryl Streep was roaming the halls of Oyster River High School? Well, she is not but ORHS's new Principal Laura Rogers is and she bears a more than passing similarity to the Oscar-winning actress.

Yes, that is correct; once again Oyster River High School has a new Principal: the third in the past four years. She is a new face with new ideas and goals for ORHS. "The shoes that were left for her to fill are quite large," says Lauren Anderson; but she is confident Mrs. Rogers will be able to take on the challenge.

Rogers worked for Souhegan High School as an intern and was hired as a regular teacher after her assigned mentor left due to an illness. "I liked the experience of seeing a school being built from the ground up. I got that experience at Souhegan. I truly enjoyed the liberal freedom that they had in that school environment," Rogers explained. Rogers continued with saying that she envisions the same here for students at ORHS, the ability to feel like you have a say in the learning environment your in.

After leaving Souhegan, Rogers continued to become an English and Social Studies teacher at John Stark. She stayed at John Stark for seven years.

"It was wonderful at John Stark. I love teaching and I can't wait until someday when I can teach in the classroom again, but I left because I wanted an administrative position," Rogers said.

After Rogers made the move to Londonderry where she worked as an Assistant Principal for four years, she continued on to Alton where she became principal of their kindergarten through eighth grade school.

"Alton was great. I love little kids but I really missed the high school environment. I knew that, high school is where I was supposed to be."

After two years at Alton, Rogers decided to leave.

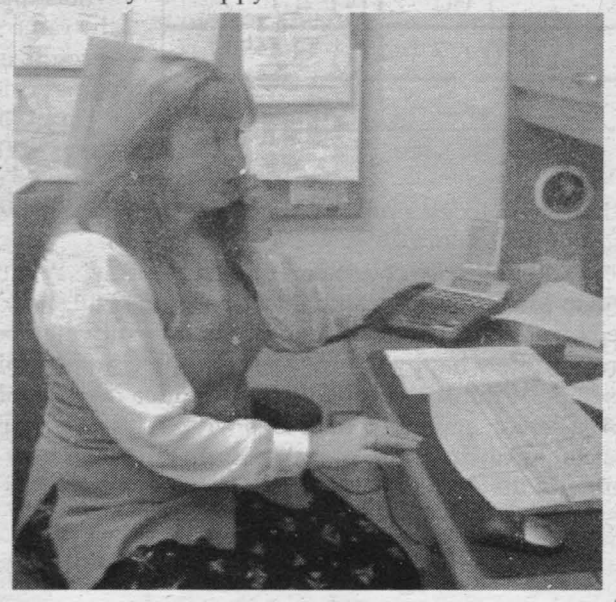
"I was looking for a school that was big and open but that had a close student body, a smaller size than two thousand which I experienced at Londonderry. Oyster River was the perfect fit. The faculty and staff have been very accepting and wonderful to work with, I am very grateful for that," said Rogers.

Heather Healy, the economics teacher and senior advisor at ORHS has a very positive opinion of Rogers.

"She's great to talk to and very approachable, and as a bonus she's really fun!" said Healy.

So as the new school year begins the student body at ORHS is faced with another challenge, adapting to a new principal once again. Though, from the sounds of the general population of ORHS, Rogers is being accepted and people are excited about the new ideas she has planned for ORHS.

"My vision is that ORHS is student driven. The kids need to feel like they have a say in what they are learning. I think that, that is my biggest job, is making sure the students and faculty are happy."



1. What do you like most about your job?
   I am never bored. There is always something to do
2. Do you have any hobbies?
   Kayaking, Biking. I read a lot, my son's soccer games are always fun, and building our house…I guess that counts.
3. What was your first car?
   Let's see, it was a 1969 Austin Healy worth $350. I bought it after college.
4. Are you married/do you have any kids?
   I am married and I have one son. He is a freshman in high school.
5. Red Sox or Yankees?
   Red Sox
6. Coke or Pepsi?
   Pepsi Jazz, Diet though!
7. Favorite Kind of Music?
   I like everything. I listen to a lot of Sean Paul and Eminem but I also like Pink Floyd, Bob Marley, Barenaked Ladies, Eric Clapton and Green Day.
8. What do you like about Oyster River?
   The way kids interact with one another. It's nice to see most of the student body here active in different activities.
9. Do you have any secrets that you would like to share?
   I'm pretty normal. I really can't think of anything.
10. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
    A really thick book.

It is very rare for a full moon to occur at the same time as Halloween. It has only occurred in - 1925, 1944, 1955, and 1974. The next time it is said to occur is 31 October, 2020.

New GPA? No Way!

Allison Krzanowski News/Features

If a student at Oyster River has a 3.8 GPA and a student at Souhegan High School has a 4.0 GPA, which student really has the better grade?

The answer is, they're both the same. At Souhegan, a 4.0 is considered an A, while at Oyster River, until recently, a 4.0 was considered an A+. That is why the decision has been made to change our GPA so an A is calculated as a 4.0.

Laura Rogers, principal at Oyster River, had been receiving many complaints from parents about how our eight-point grading scale had been putting students at a disadvantage. Upon looking into this, she found that it was not the eight point scale, but the GPA scale that was the problem.

Rogers called a number of colleges including American, Bates, Boston University, Boston College, UNH, Keene State, Plymouth State, Connecticut College, Brown, Dartmouth, Providence College, and Virginia Tech. Every college had the same response: our GPA scale was hurting our students. "Everyone that I talked to had a strong feeling that it wasn't helping students. Uniformly, they said they hadn't seen anything like it." She found that the first thing colleges typically look at is GPA, class rank, and SATs. If you pass that, they open your folder.

Grade	New Grade Pt.	Change
A+	4.33	(+) .33
A	4.00	(+) .20
A-	3.67	(+) .27
B+	3.33	(+) .13
B	3.00	none
B-	2.67	(+) .07
C+	2.33	(-) .07
C	2.00	(-) .20
C-	1.67	(-) .13
D+	1.33	(-) .27
D	1.00	(-) .40
D-	0.67	(-) .33
F	-	none

"I didn't even realize our school is so far off until the third or fourth college I talked to who told me it wasn't the eight-point scale, but the GPA system that was making our students look less capable," said Rogers. "If we're just looking at what admissions officers expect, our scale is very different than anything else they see."

Not only was it different than a lot of colleges, Rogers didn't even find any high schools on the same GPA scale as us. She talked to Brookline HS, Burlington HS, Souhegan HS, Bow HS, Woodstock Union HS, Amhearst HS, and Waterville HS. She found that some recognized the A+ as a 4.3, but none as a 4.0. Brookline HS also mentioned that 84% of their graduates attend a four year college.

"I just don't know how this happened," said Rogers. She was quick to make a change though. On October 4th she presented her information to the school board who supported adopting a GPA that reflected the same scale as everyone else. We will still recognize the A+, but as a 4.33, having the same scale as UNH.

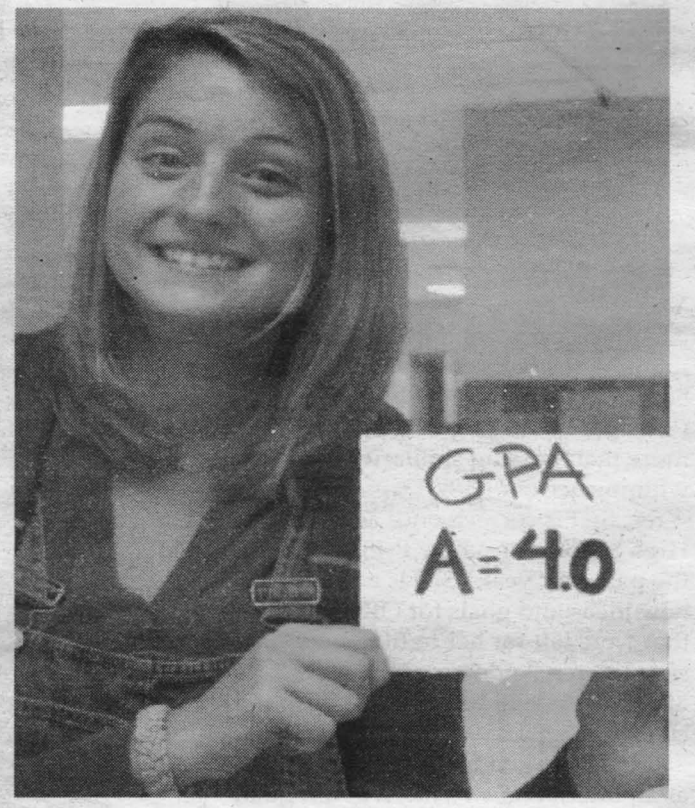
Sara Wotton, assistant principal at Oyster River is going to work with Rediker, the software we use to track students' grades and GPAs. Then, guidance will fix everyone's GPAs, starting with seniors applying early admission/early action, then the rest of the seniors.

"I'm supportive," said guidance counselor, Phyllis MacKay. "What I'm working on right now is getting all the information to Mrs. Wotton so students' transcripts will show the new GPA. The new scale seems to be well received by staff, students, community, and faculty members."

The students are definitely happy to hear about this decision. "I think it's a pretty good idea," said Amanda Fisher, senior. "I think it's probably the best idea this school has ever had.

Alex Brown, also a senior, agreed. "I'm in love with it! It's jaw-dropping wonderful."

Dave Evans, assistant principal, also agreed. "Right now it's a very high percentage of students receiving As and Bs, but with the A+ recognized as a 4.3, I really think this will benefit everyone."



Senior Shalyn Cantor proudly displays her satisfaction with the new GPA scale.

The Old Grade Scale

Grade	Grade Point
A+	4.0
A	3.8
A-	3.4
B+	3.2
B	3.0
B-	2.6
C+	2.4
C	2.2
C-	1.8
D+	1.6
D	1.4
D-	1.0
F	0.0

The first recorded Halloween celebration in the United States took place in 1921 in Anoka, Minnesota

Allison KrzanowskiNews/Features

Embarrassing Moments

At first I couldn't understand why no one wanted to share their embarrassing moments with the school newspaper. After finally getting some people to share their stories, it was suggested that I start off with an embarrassing moment of my own.

"But I don't have any!" I protested.

Cassie de Alba, a fellow MOR staff member, laughed and said "I can think of plenty for you, Allison! What about that thing that happened last weekend. . . ?"

"Cassie, don't say it out loud!" I said, and I finally understood. Most embarrassing moments are things you would not want to share with the school newspaper or they are not school-newspaper-appropriate. Usually both. However, there were a few students and teachers brave enough to share their embarrassing moments with everyone. Here they are!

"One time when the girls' cross country team was running, we saw the hot UNH boys cross country team. We had had run-ins with them before and I had shouted out my number to them. So this time when we saw them I started running toward them and Carol was pulling me away. They all looked at me like I was really immature."
–Jordan Stinson, Grade 12

"I threw up on the first day of 7th grade in the lab sink. And I was the new kid."
- Mark Nicholson, Grade 11

Getting pantsed by a gay belly dancer
- Aaron Moss, Grade 10

"In 7th grade and 8th grade I had a huge crush on Alex Lamb. He was friends with my brother, so all their friends locked us in a closet together."
- Emily Murphy, Grade 12

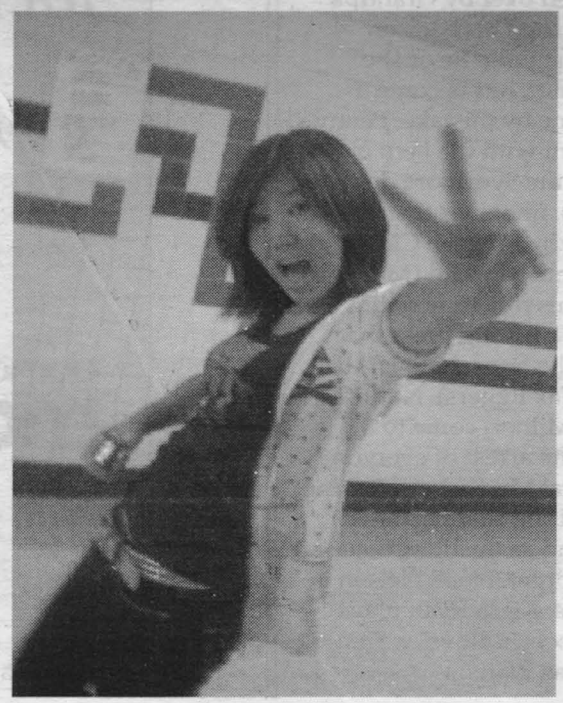
"At a school I used to work at, someone pulled a prank on me by putting up male underwear pictures on my overhead screen and all the shades. I went to pull down the overhead and here comes Marky Mark in his little briefs. So then I went to pull down all the shades. . . We spent the next 15 minutes pulling male underwear pictures off the walls."
– Mrs. Rogers

"I was on the bus in middle school and I had my skirt tucked into my backpack. I walked all the way down the aisle before someone told me."
–Cameron Lund, Grade 12

"In high school, my friend had a bun in her hair. I went and stuck my finger in it and said, 'I love sticking my finger in other people's buns.' Way too many people heard that one."
-Mrs. Kucera

Greyson ErsickNews/Features

Interview with a FRESHMAN: Marissa Kang



Each month Mouth of the River goes deep into the mind of a freshman. What do they like? What do they think? Who are they? Most upper-classmen never get a chance to get to know freshmen. So here is your chance to get to know a freshman in this month we interview Marissa Kang

1. What do you think of the senior class?
They don't bother me, but they're very cheesy.

2. If you could sum up your class in one word what would it be?
Ridiculous

3. If you were stranded on a deserted island what one thing would you bring?
Nutella

4. If you were stranded on a deserted island what teacher would you bring?
Mr. Brewer because he's British

5. What are some of your hobbies?
Skipping in Irish Grass and wearing spandex

6. What do you do after school?
Go home

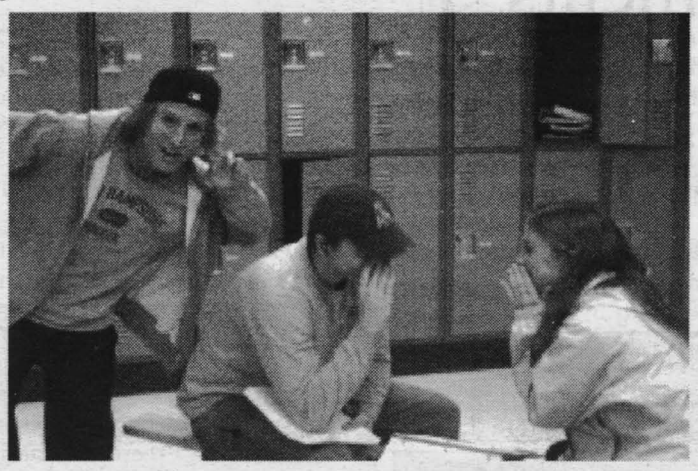
7. Do you have secrets you want to share with the Oyster River community?
I didn't care for the Godfather

8. Any upper-class love interests?
No

Americans consume about 25 pounds of candy each, annually

Overheards

Caitlin Byrne News/Features



Jacqueline Ayers: Sam you do Emily while I do this.
Lauren Anderson: Is that the smell of the porta potty? I really don't mind it.
Derrick Kotlus: Megan, I'm going to burn your house down with my menorah.
Meagan Bonefant: It wasn't like it was hard core spanking!
Mr. Zottoli: So I'm all hopped up on drugs right now, I apologize.
Chris Hall: It was found next to a bag of urine.
Mr. Lawrence: That woman leaves a path of destruction wherever she goes. She should be sent to Iraq.

Oyster River High School's Fall Play:

You Can't Take it With You

Stage Managers: Anika Vittands and Kate Vaughn
When: November 16th 17th and 18th at 7:00pm
Tickets: $5.00 students $7.00 adults

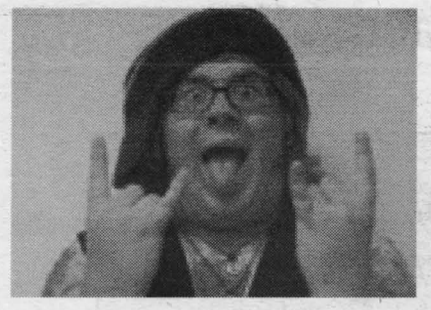
This is the story of the zany Sycamore household, presided over by Grandpa Vanderhof (Camden Brown), a former businessman who turned his back on commerce to enjoy life. At the Sycamores, everyone does just what he or she pleases. Penny Sycamore (Liza Behrendt), Grandpa's daughter, has become a novelist because someone delivered a typewriter to her home by mistake. Penny's husband (Bryce Harding) makes firecrackers in his basement with the help of Mr. Depinna (Brett Champerlin), an iceman who showed up at the Sycamore doorstep one day and never left. Their daughter Essie (Ayden Grout), imagines that she's a prima ballerina, even though her dour teacher Boris Kolenkhov (Leslie Claridge), assesses her work with, "Confidentally, it steenks!" Essie's husband Ed (Matt Camp), who'd rather play a xylophone than work, spends his free time selling Essie's candy, wrapping each package in paper from a used printing press that dispenses anarchistic slogans. The one normal member of the household is Alice Sycamore (Eve Mugar) in love with wealthy Tony Kirby (Max Eggers). Naturally, when the stuffy, aristocratic Kirbys (Emily Allen and Kyle Milner) come to the Sycamores for dinner, the event is a disaster, capped with the arrest of everyone in the household. The third act finds the previously judgmental Mr. Kirby softening his attitude towards the freewheeling Sycamore clan, admitting that he's never had so much fun in his life. Also in the cast is Cameron Lund as the ditzy southern maid, Rheba and her boyfriend Donald played by Bobby Forget. Noah Nelson is an IRS investigator, Analise Stettner plays a drunken actress, Kiera Ryan plays Olga, a Russian Duchess and the "G-Force" Consists of Alex Schidlovsky, Sam Madigliani, Courtney Dennis, Jessica Miller and Arturo Jaras Watts.

"Our goal has been, and always will be, to search out the finest local growers & suppliers."

durham marketplace

7 Mill Road • Durham, NH 03824
603-868-2500

The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.



Greyson ErsickNews/Features

Artist of the Month: Maggie Maloney

True lovers of art dedicate themselves to their art, a true artist is one who devotes their whole life to art and has spent most of their life doing art. Maggie Maloney exhibits these along with many other qualities of an artist. She's been doing art all her life and plans to continue doing art. This is the interview that took place, enjoy.

1. What's your favorite kind of art to do?
Figure drawing and pottery even though I'm not that good at it.

2. What inspires you to create?
People and what goes on around me.

3. Do you plan to go further in life with your art?
Not as a full time career, but something on the side.

4. How long have you been doing art?
Basically my whole life, both my parents are artists. So I kind of got away from it at first but now I do it a lot.

5. Do you have any favorite artists?
Claude Monet

6 .Do you have any favorite pieces of work?
A piece that's a lot like Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh.

7. What situation or setting works best for you when you work?
In a big open room, with a lot of people all painting a single figure.

Musician of the Month: Hooram Nam

What can be said about Hooram that hasn't already been said? If you don't know him here is your chance to find out. He's an extremely talented musician and that's why he's musician of the month.

1. How long have you been playing Music?
2-3 Years
2. Who are some of your heroes?
Beethoven and my Dad, who is a conductor
3. What instruments do you play?
I play Piano and Guitar
4. Do you like one better than the other?
I like piano more, because the piano has a bigger range of notes, but I'm better at guitar.
5. How often do you practice?
A lot, I play when ever I feel like it. The hours I spend on music are way too much.
6. Is music something you want to do for the rest of your life?
Yes, my whole family is made up of musicians, And it's something I really enjoy.
7. Can you describe the feeling of playing music on stage?
It depends on how well I did, if I played badly then I feel like crap, but if the audience likes it then I feel good.
8. If your guitar was a person what would its name be?

Either Shamyongs, Tongsang, or Greyson

Do you know an unsung hero? Or an undiscovered Picasso? Write to Mouth of the River and nominate them for Artist or Musician of the Month

Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who's the Nerdiest of them all?

Contributing Writor: Kevin Feng

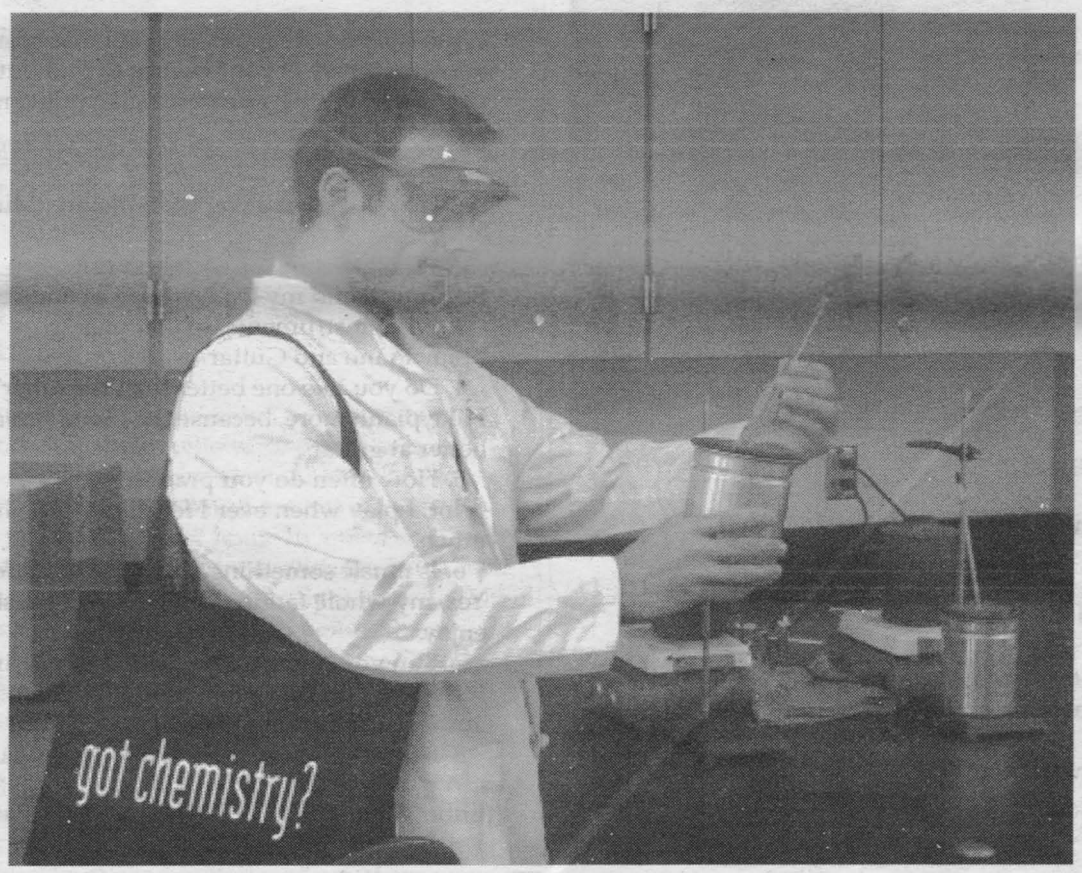
> *"He's a little quirky, and has a twisted, no wait, unique, sense of humor. He prides himself in the use of science puns."*
> - Mr. Bromley

Beads of sweat dripped slowly from his forehead. His four mile run was nearing an end as he rounded the corner on Coe Drive and Oyster River High School came into view. His pace slowed to a walk when he entered the building and went into his office to collect his belongings. Hastily placing his laptop and trademark bowtie in a bag, he walked back into the parking lot and drove into the sunset.

Douglas Baker, born September 28th 1970 in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, was the second child to Howard and Carol Baker. In high school, Baker was an avid player of football, basketball, and baseball, as well as a rugby player in college. His past athletic background explains his strapping physique. Even now he runs 4 miles three days of the week. When asked how much he benched, Baker responded with the slightly enigmatic comment: "I can bench my weight in kilograms but not pounds."

What would you think Baker does for a job? Fitness trainer? Bouncer? Baker? Nope, Baker is a chemistry teacher at Oyster River High School. But how did he go from 4-sport athlete to chemistry teacher?

Baker was originally a business major in college, but after taking a few required science classes he found anatomy and physiology and chemistry to be extremely interesting. After graduating from college he worked at a lab but found it to be extremely boring. "I wanted to say something all day," says Baker, but unfortunately the lab was so intense that he was unable to express himself. His teaching career started at Bow High School in 1996 and he's now one of the two chemistry teachers at Oyster River. Normally being a chemistry teacher catapults someone into the upper echelons of nerd, but Baker has even more nerdy qualities.



Baker is a huge fan of Star Wars and Star Trek. He attended the midnight opening of Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace as well as a Star Trek convention.

"I was the coolest one there," says Baker about his foray into the world of Trekkies.

Baker also has a periodic table of elements credit card that he carries around in his wallet.

It is this nerdiness that makes Baker one of the most beloved teachers in the hallowed halls of Oyster River High. He is able to translate that inner nerd into a quirky humor that appeals to his students. Baker is never shy about throwing out a Homer Simpson impersonation during class. It's become so common that Baker's voice is almost indistinguishable from Homer's.

Craig Randall says: "I love Mr. Baker; he's a cool guy with a few nerdy aspects, such as watching Star Wars." Randall's view on Baker is generally the consensus with most of Baker's students. In short, Baker's the man. It's obvious that Baker has touched many students but what about his colleagues?

John Bromley, one of Oyster River's biology teachers, has been working with Baker for over three years now. When asked about Baker's nerdy side, his expression turned to one of amusement as he pondered the question for a few seconds. "He's not a nerd. He's a little quirky," says Bromley "and has a twisted, no wait, unique, sense of humor. He prides himself in the use of science puns."

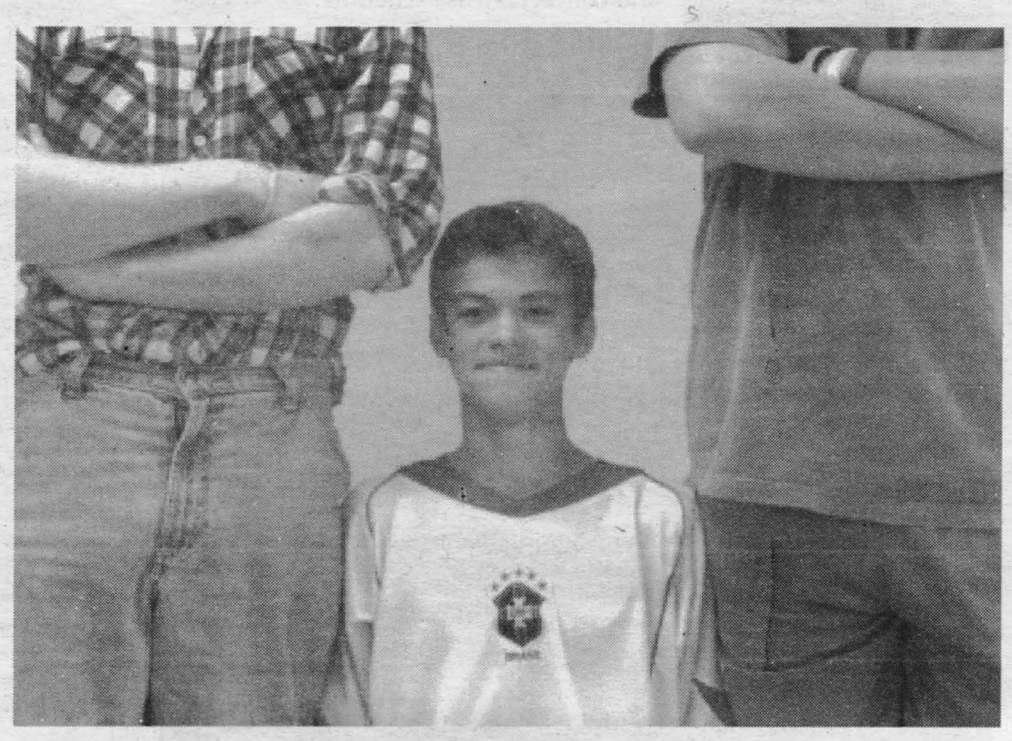
One of those infamous science puns that he uses is interchanging "Bohr" with the word "Bore". When teaching students about the Bohr Model of an atom, Baker would tell his students: "This is really 'Bohring'," and promptly crack up laughing afterwards. "The thing is, Baker reuses the same ones over and over so they get really old," says Bromley.

Baker will always be loved by his students for his quirkiness and nerdiness. Every student that walks into his classroom at the beginning of the year will come away with some fond memories at the end of the year. His classes are always fun and fresh. But let's hope for everyone's sake that he'll come up with some new science puns that don't get so bohring so fast.

Halloween accounts for 75% of the annual candy corn production

Why the Freshmen at ORHS are so small...

Allison Krzanowski News/Features



10. Theyir backpacks are getting heavier and the food is getting worse so it's stunting their growth.

9. Because we're just really, really tall.

8. It's survival of the fittest. They've grown smaller to avoid attention.

7. "Were we ever that small?"

6. They're originally from the shire.

5. It's the water at the middle school

4. Maybe they're not actually smaller, the building is just bigger.

3. We're just taller because we're so mature.

2. They're secretly little gnomes that are coming to take over the school.

1. It's called puberty

-Courtesy of ORHS students

Can you believe this?!

Caitlin Byrne News/Features
Emily Sievert Sports

According to an article in Foster's Daily Democrat, a school dance at Concord High School was stopped in the middle of the dance because of a dancing style that you might know as 'grinding.' In the article, Concord High School administrators are quoted saying that the dance style "mimics a sexual act," and would not hesitate to cancel future dances if students won't stop 'grinding.' In the article, grinding is defined as "a style of dancing where the girl leans forward and the boy puts his pelvis against her backside and thrusts." At Oyster River High School dances, 'grinding' can most likely be seen, but how bad is it? What if our school cancelled dances? Would the student body rebel?

What OR Students think:

"I wouldn't give a [beep]. Every dance but prom is boring."
–Lucy Lent, Senior

"I would just care about Prom, not the other dances."
-Liz Rollins, Senior

"Not all students should be penalized. Only some people grind."
–Jacqueline Ayers, Senior

"Nobody has the skill to dance, that's why we have to grind."
–Jill Friel, Sophomore

"It's fun to grind. I would be mad if they got cancelled over grinding."
–Noah Brickner-Wood, Sophomore.

According to NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) the current junior class will have to repeat sophomore testing, except as the new version. Oyster River is required to administer this test to all current juniors on November 14, 15 and 16. Which means for the rest of the school, the two hour delay schedule will be applied for those days. When Mrs. McKay send out an email informing all faculty of this she is quoted to have said that the students will take this new test in "three separate parts to the assessment, Reading, Mathematics, and Writing, each expected to take 60 minutes though all students are permitted 90 minutes per section." What do you think about this? What will happen when your class has to take this exam?

What do you think about these issues? Questions or Rants? Write a letter to the Editor and tell us what you think!

About 20 million pounds of candy corn are sold each Halloween that's over 8 billion kernels

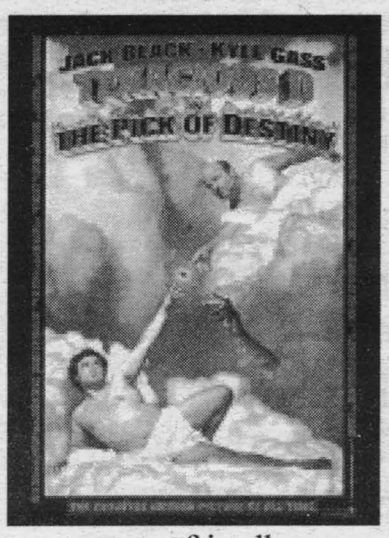
What's Happenin!??!?

All the time new albums are released new movies come out and amazing concerts happen but not everyone hears about them and people miss out. So here I give to you the people of the Oyster River Community the OFFICAL MOR album, movie and concert release schedule.

Greyson ErsickNews/Features

Upcoming Movies
October 27th
Saw 3 the next movie in the Saw series.
Can it live up to its predecessors?
November 3rd
The Santa Clause 3: That's right Tim Allen is back for the third installment of The Santa Claus
and he's got Comedian Martin Short to help him out.
Borat: Cultural Learning's of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan:
Based on a character from the British comedy show Da Ali G Show a Kazakh journalist explores what America is really like.
November 10th
Stranger Than Fiction:
Will Ferrell takes a break from his goofball antics and plays an IRS agent who finds out his life is actually
the product of a writer's new story
November 17th
Casino Royale:
The first Bond movie starring the new Bond, Daniel Craig
Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny:
Kyle Gas and Jack Black members of the acoustic rock duo Tenacious D
must steal a magical guitar pick
that will make them the greatest rock group ever.
December 1st
Van Wilder 2- The Rise of Taj:
Although called Van Wilder 2 the original star Ryan Reynolds only makes a small appearance this is
about Van's mideastern friend Taj and his adventure in college

Upcoming Albums:
October 31st
The Who- Endless Wire:
The first Who album since 1982,
two members are gone but two remain and still rock
Willie Nelson-Songbird:
Willie Nelson is the man
The Deftones- Saturday Night Wrist:
Long awaited by many fans and features
a song featuring Serj Tankain of System of a Down
The Prize Fighter Inferno- My Brothers Blood Machine :
Solo album from Claudio Sanchez of Coheed and Cambria also a Coheed live DVD comes out the same day pick both up while your at it.
November 14
Tenacious D- The Pick of Destiny Soundtrack:
Hear the music from the movie before it comes out and rock out with Jack and KG
November 21st
Jay-z - Kingdom Come:
Ole Jay is out of retirement and has been working on this much anticipated album featuring the
likes of Kanye West,
Pharrell, Timbaland and Coldplay's Chris Martin
Snoop Dogg- Blue Carpet Treatment:
Dr. Dre and Snoop are back with this new album
November 28th
Incubus-Light Grenades:
Incubus has never made a bad album and this is looking to be like another classic



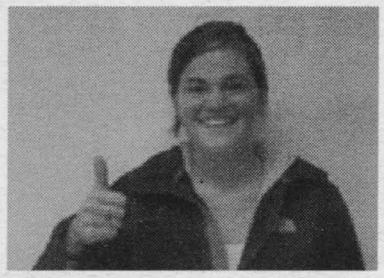
courtesy of imdb.com

Upcoming Concerts
10/27 Black Label Society Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom, Hampton
10/28 Granola Funk Express-The Stone Church, Newmarket
10/29 Monster Jam with T.I., DMX, Chingy, Ciara, Chamillionaire, Cassie, Young Joc, Cherish TD Banknorth Garden, Boston
11/1 The All American Rejects Tsongas Arena, Lowell
11/8 Jewel Merril Auditorium, Portland
11/09 Ani Difranco –Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord
11/09 Bob Dylan + The Raconteurs Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland
11/10 Leo Kottke Concord City Auditorium, Concord
11/11 Queensryche Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom, Hampton
11/12 Dark Star Orchestra Lebanon Opera House, Lebanon
11/14 Bill Frisell Dartmoth College, Hanover
11/14 Bruce Hornsby – The Music Hall, Portsmouth
11/24 James Hunter – The Music Hall, Portsmouth
11/24 Trans-Siberian Orchestra (2 shows)Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester
11/18 Panic! At The Disco Tsongas Arena, Lowell
12/02 Godsmack and Breaking Benjamin- Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester

courtesy of universal.com

Jill Drake (UK) screamed at an incredible 129 decibels when measured at the Halloween festivities held **in the Millennium Dome in London, England**

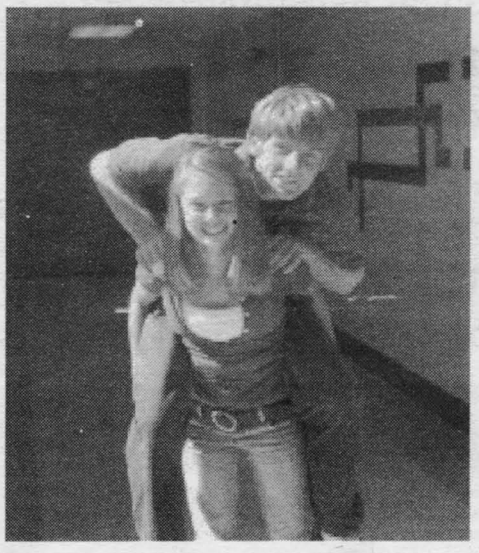
Sibling Profiles: Seniors & Freshmen



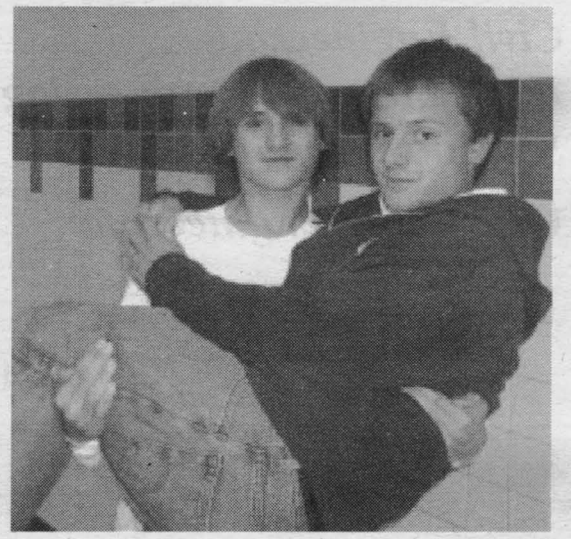
Caitlin Byrne News/Features

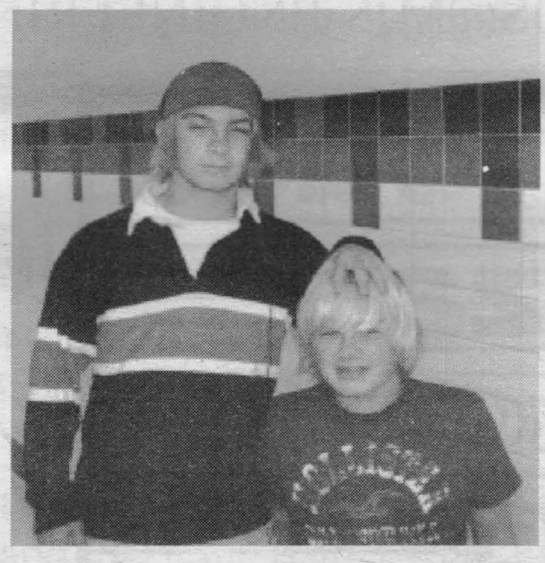
Name: Patrick Nolan Jackson
Age: 17, Senior
Height: 5'11"
Sports Played: Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
Good, Bad or Ugly Relationship: Very good. We just hang out at home together sometimes. I don't know. It's just good.
How much can you bench: 145lbs
The Truth, who is the Bigger Heartthrob: Umm, I don't know what to say.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Vanilla

Name: Kelly Flaharty Jackson
Age: 14, Freshmen
Height: 5'2"
Sports Played: Soccer, Basketball and Tennis
Good, Bad or Ugly Relationship: We get along really well. We hang out at home together when we both are there.
How much can you Bench: Never done it before.
The Truth, who is the Bigger Heartthrob: Pat, all of the sophomore girls love him.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Vanilla



Name: Samuel Marshall Kerrigan
Age: 17, Senior
Height: I refuse to answer that.
Sports Played: Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
Good, Bad, or Ugly Relationship: He's a good guy. He has a good heart and he even makes me breakfast sometimes. I give him advice and he takes it.
How much can you Bench: John Kerrigan. AKA a considerable amount.
The Truth who is the Bigger Heartthrob: Is that even a question? Me.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Vanilla





Name: John Finley Kerrigan
Age: 14, Freshmen
Height: 5'9
Sports Played: Golf, Basketball, and Baseball
Good, Bad or Ugly Relationship: I don't know. It's good I guess. We get along.
How much can you Bench: More than Sam. No, actually I can bench Sam.
The Truth, who is the bigger Heartthrob: Um, Me? Obviously.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Chocolate

Name: Blair Sebastian Kelley
Age: 17, Senior
Height: A solid 5'9"
Sports Played: Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
Good, Bad or Ugly Relationship: We have a good relationship; we spend a lot of time at home together watching movies. It's good except for the fact that he likes to walk around the house naked a lot…
How much can you Bench: A lot more than the lanky one.
The Truth who is the Bigger Heartthrob: It doesn't apply to Donovan. He doesn't swing that way.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Vanilla

Name: Donovan Corson Kelley
Age: 14, Freshman
Height: 5'8.5"
Sports Played: Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
Good, Bad or Ugly Relationship: We play lacrosse together and hang out at home. It's good I guess.
How much can you Bench: More than Blair.
The Truth who is the bigger Heartthrob: I'd have to go with…me.
Vanilla or Chocolate: Vanilla

According to ancient superstitions, if you stare into a mirror at midnight on Halloween, you'll see your future spouse.

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Circulation Manager – Caitlin Byrne
News Manager – Emily Sievert
Faculty Advisor - Judy Kucera

News and Features –
Greyson Ersick – Department Head
Allison Krzanowski – Photo Editor
Caitlin Byrne – Layout Editor

Op-Ed –
Blair Kelley – Department Head
Casssie de Alba – Photo Editor
Sam Kerrigan – Layout Editor

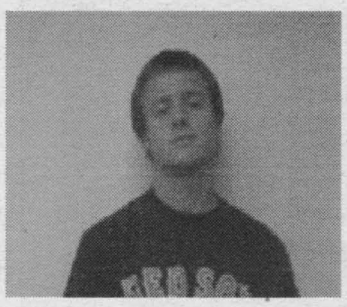
Sports –
Emily Sievert – Department Head
and Photo Editor
Joe Gehling – Layout Editor

Standards for Mouth of the River Articles

1. Articles should be creative and innovative
2. Articles shall not be hurtful or target individuals
3. Include a variety of sources that represent everyone
4. Don't plagiarize or fabricate
5. Put the interests of the paper ahead of your own.
6. Articles should be appealing and make the reader want to read them.
7. The newspaper should look like a professional publication – with eye-catching pictures, design and articles.
8. The paper should be fun for everyone.
9. Put effort into all articles and take your work seriously.
10. Avoid bias in articles, excluding op-ed.

The word Halloween appeared in the Dictionary in the 1700s.

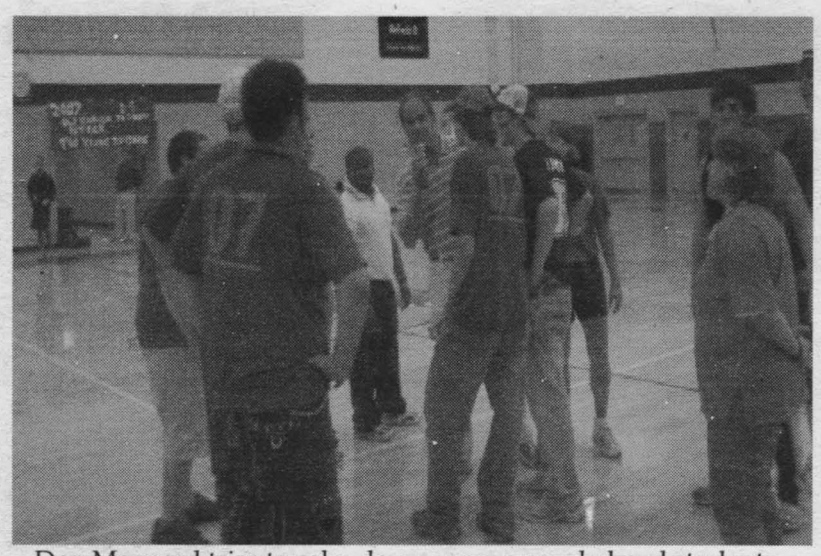
Letter From the Editor: Pep-Rally 2006



Blair Kelley Op-Ed Department

With the Homecoming Pep-Rally a few weeks behind us, there still seems to be hard feelings about the results. The sophomores were declared the winners, upsetting many seniors in the process. Controversy filled the gymnasium that day because many people felt that no matter what, seniors should always win

The incident started during the tug of war final which featured the seniors vs. the juniors. With the seniors trailing by 25 points to the sophomores in the overall standings, a victory was mandatory. Well into the match it was clear that the juniors had the advantage so a group of seniors poured out of the stands and helped pull the rope leading to a tainted victory, very reminiscent of Pep-Rally 03. The win was short lasted however when new Athletic Director Don Maynard declared over the loud speakers that the seniors had been disqualified therefore making the sophomores the champions of the pep-rally.



Don Maynard tries to calm down some overwhelmed students

I personally feel that this is not the way the pep-rally should have been decided. When I was a freshman, it was common knowledge that the seniors always win the pep rallies, it seemed to be a general consensus. We all realized that it was our time to wear yellow and to lose, we knew that we would have our time in a few years. Sadly, that time never came. Maynard seemed to be confused about this common notion however.

"I'd like to know where that whole mentality came from," said Maynard. While I don't have a clear answer for that, all I can say is that it's something that just happens. Juniors try hard to make the event competitive and add a little flare to spirit week, but in the end they accept the fact that come next year, they will be the class in the spotlight. Technically we won the pep-rally my sophomore year, but in the end the seniors were the ones celebrating.

That being said, the pep-rally still went pretty well. Maynard has received a lot of positive feedback about the event which has led him to start planning for another pep-rally sometime later in the year.

"I'm going to talk to students to help make it better for the winter," stated Maynard, "I want it to be competitive, but it has to be under control."

Some new ideas for the pep-rally would be organized entrances going in order of the grades, culminating in the seniors making the final entrance. If you have any other ideas, don't hesitate to let them be known.

Overall, I was not completely disappointed with the pep-rally, it was good to see a lot of unrestricted competition this year, which seems to be something the administration had been trying to cut back on in the aftermath of the bull run. While I'm disappointed that the senior's didn't win like they always should, I'm confident that we'll pull it together for the future pep-rally and re-establish our dominance.

Letter to the Editor: Tradition

By Nathan Santos

We all know about how our school has changed in its physical appearance in the past five years. We now have a three-story tower, an actual auditorium, and classrooms void of carcinogens. The seniors used to glorify their one senior bench, now we have seven. Yet, the biggest change doesn't seem to have been anything close to those examples. The biggest change we have seen is the change in our traditions. Seniors seem to have lost much of their social reign recently. Juniors now have parking too. And apparently sophomores can now win spirit weeks. I don't particularly like these changes, and here is why.

Tradition is "a part of culture that is passed from person to person," and "a commonly held system" (wiktionary). Tradition is important. Without it, our actions are entirely forgotten; our life is ephemeral and brief. But with it, we have a connection to our past and future, a sort of eternal affinity, and a reason to conduct ourselves in a way we see as appropriate and favorable to society.

Our country prints our dollar bills with the words "federal reserve note" not because people might not recognize a dollar bill, but because it is a tradition. There are no legitimate purposes to things like commemorating blatantly superstitious holidays, sending birth announcements, or celebrating Columbus Day; but we do them regardless.

Our school does not have many traditions, especially when compared to other schools. The biggest lack of tradition comes from no football team and hence, a very unimportant homecoming. We used to have a least a few traditions. Traditions like having a homecoming float, having a senior follies, having a bonfire, risqué and fun spirit weeks (where SENIORS always win), respectful treatment of seniors, and the most controversial of all: the hazing of freshmen. Through tradition, we could have continuity within our community.

Last year I thought the seniors were being absolutely ridiculous when they complained about the privileges seniors are losing, the very things which I am complaining about right now, and while typing this I am realizing the irony. Now I am seeing it from their perspective. We have worked 12 years, slowly counting up from each grade level, and conquering each school building every 4 years by outgrowing its confines. But now we have out grown the confines of obligatory public education, we have reached a new world. We have reached a world of freedom and significance, and that is huge deal to us. We deserve to commemorate the fact that we have lived this long and are about to move to a more important stage of our life. It is our privilege, neigh our social entitlement, to put ourselves above the others for this final year.

I am amazed that the class of 2006 cared enough to follow through with every thing they did last year, because I am getting near the point of not giving a damn. I want to be lazy this senior year, prepare for college and say my good-byes, but I feel that this school is heading towards something of lesser greatness. And I don't want to come back after being away for my first year of college to see an entirely different school in place of my beloved Oyster River.

Since 1995, trick or treating in the town of Sandusky, Ohio, has been against the law for anyone older than 14.

Three Thoughts: George Bush

Ever since the Bush administration has come into office, it seems that many problems have occurred. The national debt has reached over 8 trillion dollars, gas prices have soared to an unprecedented level, and we find our country fighting a war which isn't exactly justified. When Clinton was in office our country had a surplus, which means that our national debt was actually getting smaller. Our country has encountered many economic problems, but the scariest issue I have come across has to do with the educational system.

The system I have a problem with is No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Judging by the title, most would think that this would be a program designed to help less fortunate schools develop. However, this is not the case. One of the main parts of NCLB requires schools to pass a variety of tests and studies. If they don't meet these requirements, the school's funding gets a cut. How moronic is this idea? I think this portrays the exact opposite of what the titles describes. By cutting the funding for schools, money is being taken away that could help buy better resources to improve the school. Imagine failing a math test and then having the teacher say they aren't going to offer any more extra help, it makes no sense.

"It just seems like a backwards way to help education," said Social Studies Teacher Pam Raiford.

With this already being an issue, the way that NCLB determines who receives funding is a little strange also. Testing is not the best way to learn information for everyone, a lot of people just cram information and try to memorize different facts that by the time the test is over with, they haven't really learned anything.

There is also a big difference between the public schools in the United States. We are lucky enough to be in a school like Oyster River and receive a good education, but it isn't like this in every school. A lot of schools lack the resources that we see in our district.

"I think we have a problem that so many people aren't getting an adequate education," Raiford added.

While I have many problems with the Bush administration, this is certainly an issue that I am very adamant about. I just don't believe that cutting the funding is going to motivate students to do better. I feel that trying to help the less fortunate schools would help create a good atmosphere that actually makes students feel better about attending school. The discrepancy between public schools in this country is absurd and something needs to be done by it, hopefully the government can actually find a way to help out.

I feel the Bush administration has good intentions but they do a horrendous job executing them. Because of the Bush administration we are now in an immense national debt, but at the same time a terrorist group is no longer controlling a country, an evil dictator has been ousted and two countries are on the move for the better.

I think it would have been irresponsible to leave Al-Queda roaming around Afghanistan untouched after they directly attacked our country. This was a good move despite people objecting to it. Bush did a good job stopping the terrorist efforts and not allowing other countries to push us around.

The Iraq conquest however is a little suspect. There was really no reason to go in and attack Iraq but it surely isn't a bad thing that Saddam is in custody.

Saddam Hussein needed to be taken out of power some time or another due to his countless acts of terror on the Iraqi people and Bush, felt this was a good time to do so. Although I disagree with the reasons for fighting War in Iraq I do think the ultimate result will be beneficial. Whether Saddam was planning on attacking us or not I think that it is better that we made the first move rather than him.

According to CBSNews.Com 55% of Americans approved the war on terrorism when the campaign first began, now nearly 5 years later the approval has dropped to an astonishing 29%. This proves that a good percent of people were more willing to respond to invading Al-Queda rather than invading Iraq.

In my opinion the Bush administration certainly could be doing a better job managing our country but as far as being a nation that has a bright future I think we're holding our own.

A few weeks ago, I sat in the back of a car hurtling down a road in Boston, listening to my dad and some of his friends from college debating about politics. They were talking about the election in Mexico when the topic suddenly changed to the United States and George W. Bush. Understanding angry, rapid-fire Spanish from three people talking over each other is not my forte, but all the words I managed to pick out were similar: "Idiot." "Stupid." "Disaster."

Although I tend to express my feelings about the subject in English, I have generally similar opinions about the Bush administration. I don't purport to understand everything about politics, but I feel that our current government is doing a lot of things wrong.

I'm not even going to get into the war in Iraq—we shouldn't be there, but we have a responsibility to undo the damage we've done at this point—that's several articles in and of itself. What angers me the most is the Bush administration's social policies. Historically, Republicans favor a smaller government, with fewer laws and regulations; so why are they fighting to make things like abortion and gay marriage illegal? A few years ago, Bush sponsored "Marriage Protection Week:" a week in October that promoted heterosexual marriage as the only option. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has labeled the Bush administration "the most anti-gay in the history of the gay rights movement." Personally, I don't want someone running my country to legislate discrimination.

In addition to this, the people in power are consistently working to undermine the Roe v. Wade decision; several justices appointed by this administration believe that the decision should be overturned, and it's possible that would happen if the case comes before the Supreme Court again. I don't know if I would personally get an abortion if the situation ever arose, but I strongly believe that the government has no right to legislate what I can and cannot do with my body.

I wasn't old enough to vote in the last election, but I'll be over 18 by 2008. I only hope to be able to vote for someone who can undo some of the damage that this administration has done.

Left Column: Blair Kelley
Middle Column: Sam Kerrigan
Right Column: Cassie de Alba

At the turn of the century, cities were overcrowded and Halloween marked the time to let off steam by playing practical jokes such as turning over out houses.

Spirit Week

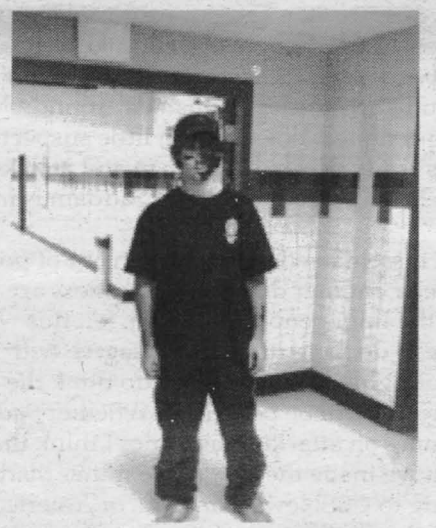
That's right folks, twice a year Oyster River is infected by the Spirit Week bug and students and teachers alike all celebrate school spirit by dressing up. Highlights such as the Pizza Luncheon and the Pep Rally bring the school together. Here are some awesome pictures highlighting the events of... FALL SPIRIT WEEK 2006!!

Sam Kerrigan representing the MOR staff

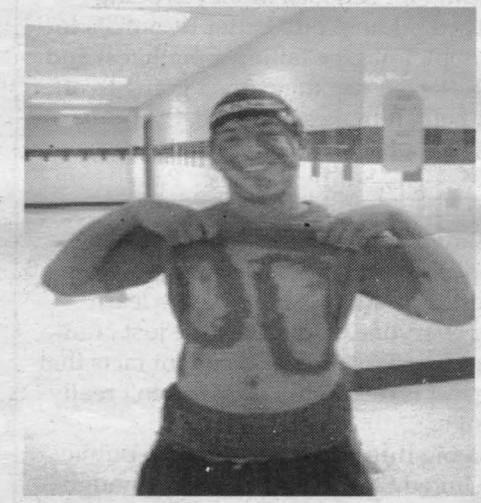
Seniors Vs. Juniors Tug of War

A heated game of run-around tennis

Corey Lewis swabs the poop deck erm I mean senior core



Junior Matt Sullivan proudly wears black



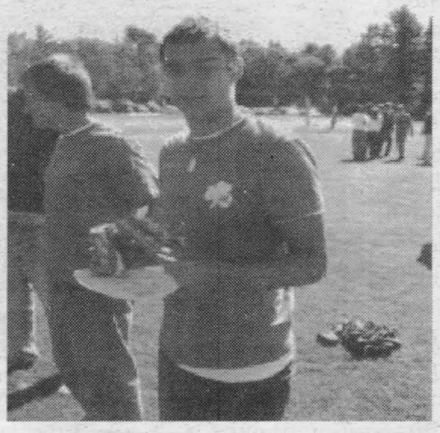
Loius Maude says 09 or 90 rules

Senior photo op

Extreme musical chairs!!!

Witch means wise one. It comes from the Saxon word wica

Craziness Fall 06



Max Disesa enjoys some pizza

Freshmen get ready for some Tug of War

Another senior photo op

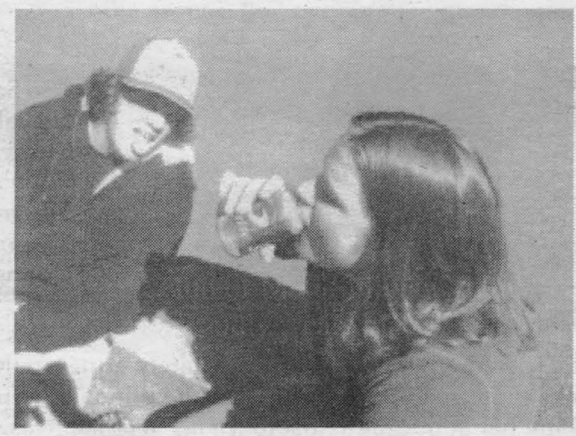
Mark Pavlidis or Captain Jack Sparrow?

Sophmore Robert Kang dressed as a girl.

Alina Harris the cowgirl

Sophomores sliding into finish

Buck-Buck is back in style!



mmmm thats some good Sprite.

Orange and black became Halloween colors because of orange is associated with harvests and black is associated with death.

Durham: It's Where U [Hate To] Live

Cassie de Alba Op-Ed Department

Picture a typical scene from Animal House. Students stream past in togas, broken beer bottles litter the ground, and in the distance you can hear the faint, melodic strains of frat boys yelling "Chug, chug, chug!"

The only problem? This isn't a scene from Animal House. This is what it's like living in downtown Durham.

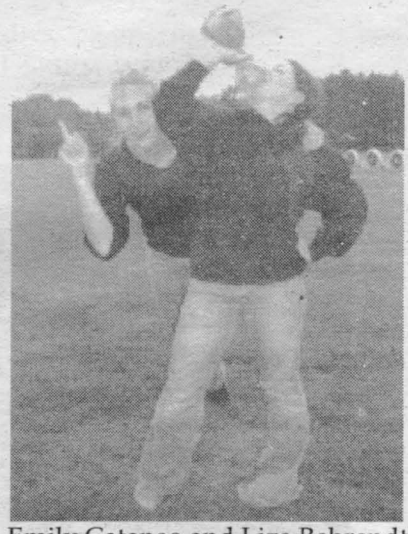
Granted, it's not always like this. Say that it's a freezing Monday night in February, with severe hail. On a night like this I can sleep peacefully, knowing that my slumber will not be rudely interrupted by a frat party down the street. But noise is only one of the issues I have with sharing a town with the University of New Hampshire. You've all, or at least I assume so, had to drive down Main Street at some point during the school year. Next time you do so, please notice the way your car acts as a sort of magnet for students: the way they leap in front of the car at the last possible second, forcing you to slam on your brakes and swear under your breath. Jaywalking is nothing new, but I have the feeling that UNH teaches a class on it.

Of course, living in a college town has its benefits. I can take a UNH class after school, I can play "count the beer bottles" as I walk to work, I can get pulled over by UNH cops for violating an expired law...okay, maybe living in a college town has its BENEFIT.

Ms. Rogers, our principal, also believes that living with UNH has both advantages and disadvantages. She's not a fan of the fact that proximity to the college can give kids easy access to alcohol and drugs, but she believes that having UNH in Durham has students "thinking about their college aspirations." With higher education so close by, it's always on our minds. And after all, a large number of Oyster River graduates end up at UNH every year.

UNH has me thinking about my college aspirations as well, but probably not in the way Ms. Rogers meant it. When I look at schools, I look for everything that UNH is not. A common sentiment among ORHS students is "I'd want to go to UNH if it wasn't so close by," but I have to disagree. Living with a homogenous, sports-happy party school for the past few years, in fact, has made me never want to go to college.

Nevertheless, I am applying to college: just not here. I know that some of 07 will end up on Frat Row, but I'd like a little more learning and a little less Animal House in my higher education.



Emily Cataneo and Liza Behrendt imitate their idea of typical UNH students.

POLL: 44% of seniors are applying to UNH
44% are not applying
11% are undecided

How do ORHS students feel about sharing a town with UNH?

"It just makes me rather upset with the world in general."
-Amanda Fisher, Senior

"We have extra education opportunities…but they're really loud, always drunk, and popping out of virtually nowhere when you're driving down the road."
-Ally Cheney, Senior

"Our town wouldn't be here if UNH wasn't here."
-Loren Marple, Junior

"I like it cause it gives me a chance to see what college is like and it means that there's a better downtown."
-Marie Collins, Sophomore

Advice: with Suavé Sam

Sam Kerrigan Op-Ed Department

Q-"So Sam, how can I go about getting a freshman boy? I just can't get enough of them. If any are interested they should call me." -Emily Murphy (senior)

A-Emily, you have come to the right man. Now, having a freshman brother myself makes me an expert on them. From what I have observed they enjoy shopping more than most females and due to my keen eavesdropping skills I have learned several of them are willing to date anything that moves. Now putting these factors into perspective I would simply suggest you flaunt yourself about the 3rd floor several times a day. And if you really wanted you coul start going to the mall religiously. If you do this you will surely pick up a freshmen stud.

Q-I was thinking of a lovely lady two Saturdays ago and it happened to be the midnight hour, I called her up and her she was on my mind, she immediately hung up the phone and has neglected to talk to me since. Where did I go wrong? -Jake Gross (sophomore)

A-Jake man, you went wrong with the phone call, first of all if you if you're not already dating or have a little fling going (which clearly you don't) you shoul be calling her at midnight just to *tell her your thoughts*. That's just weird. Please, for your sake don't do it again.

Continued onto next page

Halloween is the 8th largest card-sending occasion.

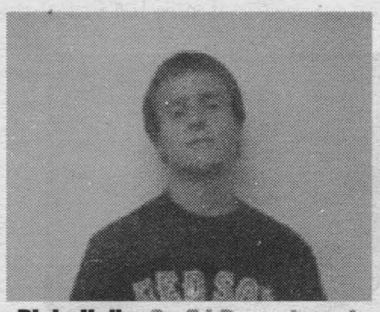
Sam's Advice Continued...

Q-How do you make your hair look so good? -Sarah Crothers (Junior)

A-Sarah, I must say I'm flattered you would ask such a question. Now despite what many think, I do not straighten my hair, nor do I do anything to it that takes me longer than 30 seconds to do. I will admit to conditioning and also the occasional combing when I have the time, but I like to attribute my hairs looks to my very stylish hairdresser.

Q-"What do you think about the girls with a little mole on the cheek, is it cute or is it distracting?"-Greg Johnson (Junior)

A-Johnson, this is a great question and there is a simple answer to this. The mole is an excellent feature if it is complimented with a cute little smile, but otherwise I must say it's a little distracting.



Blair Kelley Op-Ed Department

Same Old Story

How many times have we seen this before? New movies today are the same thing over and over again, the plots are almost identical, for instance look at the 2004 movie "Coach Carter." This movie featured an underdog basketball team with Samuel L. Jackson starring as the coach. Miraculously he transformed the team into great players and great students who ended up going further than anyone expected. Now look at "Gridiron Gang." In this movie, The Rock, takes over as the football coach of a team full of juvenile delinquents and somehow turns their season and hopes around again. Don't get me wrong, these are good story ideas, they've just been done way too many times. These two movies were made less than two years apart, yet they are almost the same exact story.

I really feel that all of these movies today follow the same 2-3 basic story ideas, the directors have just hired new actors to fill the roles and have tweaked the plots ever so slightly to ensure that they will at least attract at least a few viewers. I, for one, will not be one of these few.

As a lot of people know, I am a huge fan of classic movies. While a lot of people are confused as to why I choose to watch these films rather than the new mainstream movies, they have to understand what makes a film great and what qualities give it the status of being a classic. There isn't a lot that goes into it, but these few things are essential and seem to be much harder to obtain today.

The first and maybe the most important quality of a good movie is the plot, particularly the originality that the plot possesses. People respect a movie which dares to go somewhere new or takes a different approach at a popular issue. Nowadays it just seems that movies, particularly the mainstream ones, are just ideas that have been done before.

The Rock and gang celebrate yet another predictable win

"The directors are running out of ideas," said Senior Tony Smith, "They're (new movies) just like the older movies, just re-tooled a bit." I have found this to be very true. While of course there are plenty of films today that attempt to develop their own style, these aren't the movies that receive the constant commercial advertising. This is the main issue I have with new movies; the fear of trying something different and the fact that the producers know their films will succeed even if they don't dare to go somewhere new..

"Actors seem to do it just for the money, not if it's a good movie," concluded Smith.

In order to get a broader sense of movies in general, I have started watching older films to see what makes them so great. I have come up with a few qualities that separate them from movies today.

"The golden age of American Cinema was the 1970's," said English teacher Martin Brewer. "There were directors like Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola and movies like 'The Deer Hunter,' 'Coming Home,' and 'Apocalypse Now.' These movies were made on a smaller scale and it wasn't all about the special effects." I completely agree and have noticed that a lot of the classics were made during the 1970's. In addition to the films mentioned, we also saw a decade that released great movies like parts I and II of 'The Godfather' trilogy and of course the epic 'Star Wars' movies. Say what you want about these films, but they are movies which are still regarded today as some of the best ever.

Films that deal with real life issues also seem to be the movies that eventually enter the pantheon of great movies and rack up the Oscar wins and nominations.

"A good story about human drama is timeless," stated Brewer. People relate to movies that cut to the real parts which make us human. For instance, while 'The Deer Hunter' deals with a well known issue like the Vietnam War, the real moral of the story is the devastating effect that war has on people psychologically and what can happen to people under enormous amounts of stress. We still see that today, with the war in Iraq being one of many examples.

To give the new movies some credit, I have to say that not all of them are bad, and of course not all of them lack originality. Director Martin Scorsese is the perfect example. Scorsese has mastered the art of creating violent drama movies, but it's his constant experimenting with new ideas that has given him classic after classic. He has had a few bad movies over the years, but he has also found a lot of gold in his work. Fans of his movies realize that there is more behind the movie than the brutality it portrays on the screen; it is what causes these people to lash out this way, and the interlacing plot that goes with the movie. This is why Scorsese is still a big name even in today's cinema. "Martin Scorsese doesn't let me down," said Brewer.

New movies do however, find a way to keep people interested.

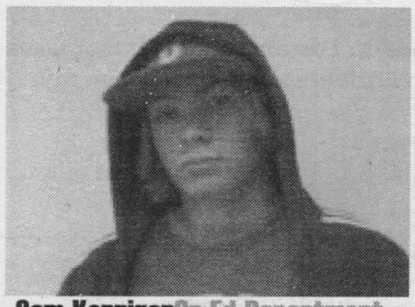
"I like new movies because they're fun to watch and you don't have to think much," said Senior Sara Powell. While this is true, it is also a double-edged sword.

"It's like eating a lot of chocolate," said Brewer, referring to these new movies. "Yes, it's enjoyable, but it leaves a taste that makes you feel a little bit ill." And this is the basic verdict on new mainstream movies. They're designed to captivate you with their special effects and the extreme emotions, but in the end you realize that you have seen this same story before, just in a slightly different format with different actors.

In conclusion, I feel that movies today are too typical. Film makers should get over the fear of failing and try experimenting a little bit. I can't take another 'Coach Carter;' I just don't have it in me.

The first jack-o-lanterns, in fact, were carved out of turnips.

Dance, Dance, Dance



Sam Kerrigan Op-Ed Department

Through my high school career I have come to live for two things, one which shall not be named and the other is dances. There really isn't anything better than a good ole dance at the end of a long week of school.

From my experience the greatness of the dances falls upon the senior class. Now by no means am I saying underclassmen don't bring their groove, but from what I have seen the most successful dances involve a large senior population. This I think holds true for several reasons; everyone knows that in order to have a dance that's absolutely pumpin', there needs to be a lot of people. From what I have observed, when seniors go to the dances, everyone seems to follow. Another reason is that the senior class is known for getting the party started; if a song such as "Sandstorm" or "Get Low" comes over the speakers you know there will be some upperclassmen tweaking out.

Some examples of this theory would be the past two years. The class of 2005 was notorious for attending dances. When they came, they went all out and this generally resulted in a pretty darn good dance. The class of 2006 however had a little less rhythm you could say and although there were a few faithful dances the majority of the grade didn't attend the dances, hence not many good dances last year.

Seniors Dancing up a storm at Homecoming

Let me give you a few examples; Homecoming 2004, an intense dance to say the least. Not only was it in the cafe but the turn out was huge and the DJ knew what he was doing. On the other end of the spectrum there was the Christmas dance last year. That was quite possibly the worst dance on earth; there were 50 people there at the most.

Veteran dancer Evan Lonstein agrees with my views. "Everyone looks up to seniors, if they say dances are cool, naturally youngin's will follow," remarked Lonstein.

Some have never had the privilege of going to a dance, in my opinion this is a crime. Senior Kegan Quimby says, "Honestly I have never been to a dance, I have better things to do, like sit at home, alone…" Kegan, I must say as convincing as your argument is, you're severely wrong. Dances so far have been some of my favorite memories of my high school career. I can't think of more than three things I would rather be doing than dancing up a storm with a few of my boys and of course some lovely ladies.

There are also freshmen who haven't got the chance to go to a dance yet. "I haven't been to a dance yet but they seem like they should be a lot of fun, I wouldn't go to a dance with only a few people, so I definitely think seniors play a role in how dances turn out, they're someone to look up to," says Mackenzie Leander a freshman.

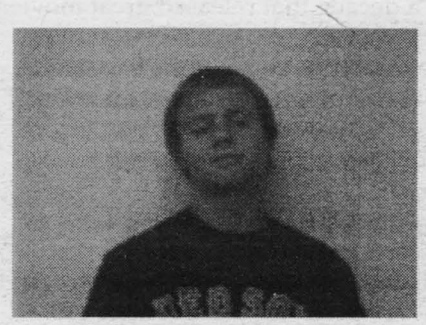
Last Friday I attended my final homecoming dance. My thoughts were that it was an overall success. Despite the DJ not playing good "dance" music and the freshmen class president informing me the dance was longer than it actually was, I had a good time. The atmosphere was excellent; just what I had hoped for. I saw a boy who religiously plays world of war craft up on stage dancing, I saw sophomore Benny Rollins dancing his heart out with more girls I even knew existed. "It was pretty intense in there, I had a great time," said Rollins, "It was cool, it was real cool."

Although it may seem so, this article is not directed solely towards seniors, it's directed to everyone. If you're all expecting to have some raging dances this year there need to be people reppin' all grades and they need to be reppin' them proudly.

All in all I just want to have some good dances this year, and the only way this is going to happen is if we get a large percentage of the Oyster River High School to attend them.

So next time you're pondering what to do on the night of a dance, my advice to you would be, get off your behind, go to the school and get down.

The Rantings



Blair Kelley Op-Ed Department

I've reached my breaking point. With so many problems everywhere around us, I have decided that I've had enough. It's time to take action in the form of writing. This column, which I plan to continue in future issues, is designed to critique these many problems and to make my views very clear. There are many things that make me angry, whether they're on a smaller scale, like in our very own high school, or on a much larger scale, like the world. I'm honored to share my opinions with you and hopefully persuade you to feel the way I do.

Issue # 1: Power Hungry Cops: I want to make this as clear as possible. I have no problem with there being a legal force like police officers, because I feel that it is a necessary system. My problem is with the way that some of these officers conduct themselves and how they reflect the profession as a whole. Obviously some of the opinions stated in this section will be generalizations, but I have found a lot of these issues to be very relevant, particularly in the Durham community.

The main issue that I have with many police officers in Durham is that a lot of them seem to be out searching for anyone to place blame on and to give a hard time to. I feel that this is wrong because by doing this, a lot of the bigger issues like rape and drunk driving, which are especially prevalent living in a college town, get missed because of the time spent dealing with petty loitering issues and minor driving infractions.

"It's a college town," stated Senior Corey Snelling. "I feel the little stuff should be dealt with more leniently." These smaller issues seem to be along the lines of too many people hanging out at Store 24 or even underage drinking. Just by the sheer number of college students alone, it would be impossible to crack down on the majority of underage drinkers. However, with this massive number of partying students, the focus should be put on people who commit the acts of violence. Rape, robbery, drunk driving, fighting: these are some of the things that cops should be looking for and are some of the things that can have devastating effects on people both physically and emotionally.

Continued onto next page

Black cats were believed to be witches' familiars, a kind of cosmic sidekick who protected the witches' powers from negative forces.

Rantings continued...

In the end, kids are going to be kids. Whether people like it or not, underage drinking is going to happen. Instead of trying to prevent the drinking as much, officers should shift more of the attention to the big issues that can emerge as a result of drinking. When asked on his view of what would make the ideal officer, Snelling summed it up beautifully, "I want him to keep the peace…understand that things happen."

Issue # 2: Hallway Etiquette: For all of you who are confused about this term, let me explain myself. Hallway etiquette is the way that traffic flow should happen throughout the halls and stairwells of the high school. There are many issues with the way of the hallway, and hopefully this section will help give an idea of how the ideal hallway should work.

"How simple can it be?" exclaimed Senior Blake Janelle. "Walk on the right side of the hallway and don't just stand there blocking traffic." I couldn't say it any better, but I'll give it a try. The hallway is designed as a passageway between a student's current location and their ultimate destination. A hallway is not designed to be a place where you can stop right in the middle of it and talk to your friend about how much you hate your math class. While I might agree with your viewpoint, I disagree with your action. What this does is create a chain effect. By standing in the middle of the hallway you slow down the traffic flow itself. This causes a mess of students jammed together, which finally leads to students trying to get around the mess using any route possible. A very common route seems to be the left side of the hallway. This causes even more problems, since there are now students walking straight into oncoming traffic. Of course, this ultimately leads to the awkward dance steps to avoid walking into someone, which we all know no one wants to see.

To avoid these awkward situations and frustrating road blocks, just visualize the hallway like this. The hallway is a road; would you stop your car right in the middle of the road to say "hi" to one of your buddies or to continue a conversation? Absolutely not. You would pull over to the side of the road (in this case the lockers or against a wall) and then continue your conversation. Also think about this: would you ever even consider driving against oncoming traffic? You wouldn't, so don't do it in the hallways either. I guarantee you there will be a great improvement in the hallways if people follow what I say in this article, and if this article is ignored then I will harass people to obey the hallway etiquette. Janelle agreed and came up with a simple system, "If you see them on the wrong side, let them know. If you see them doing it again, run them over." Simple enough.

Is Tracking Harmful to Students? I Don't Care

Cassie de Alba Op-Ed Department

I'm not the kind of person who cares about what other people think of me, especially when it comes to my personal beliefs. Luckily, most of my opinions aren't too far out there; I don't think George Bush personally planned 9/11, and I have no idea whether Kurt Cobain's death was murder or suicide. But the opinion I'm about to express is one that I'm not even sure is printable in the paper. I've seen people get angry about it; I've heard people laugh at me for even caring. But I digress: I think Oyster River should start tracking its classes.

Wikipedia defines tracking as "assignment to different classes and academic experiences based on achievement;" basically, separating students based on how much they already know about a subject they're learning about. A number of studies have shown that tracking is harmful to students; that it prevents them from getting into the right colleges and impedes their ability to learn.

> "Oyster River is notorious for not wanting to offer advanced classes"

What I have to say to this is that I don't care. I've been both an advanced student in a class that's too easy for me, and struggling in classes where I don't understand the material. I've been in classes with special education students where the curriculum is clearly not designed for their needs, and their difficulties with the material make it harder for the rest of the students to learn. I'm that kid who made you do all the work in science labs because I never learned how to graph, and I'm that kid who circled every one of your comma splices in obnoxious red pen. In these situations, I don't think anyone is learning to their full potential. I don't advocate an entire system of tracked classes; what I would like to see is certain classes with multiple sections for students with different levels of ability and interest.

Oyster River is notorious for not wanting to offer advanced or tracked classes. Where most schools have a dozen or more AP classes, we have three. Even "advanced" classes are few and far between, and some departments, such as language, offer none. Does this hurt our chances of getting into college? Maybe. Does this hurt our ability to learn as much as we can in high school? Absolutely.

I dropped math after 2 years because I didn't care. I dropped Spanish after 2 years because I cared too much; I hated being in a class with people who could barely form a coherent sentence in English, and who had absolutely no desire to learn the language. Maybe the people I was in math with felt the same way about me. Luckily, I quit before they did.

Most students I talked to were in favor of adding more advanced classes to the curriculum. Senior Kaitlin Clark said, "It would help us towards college." As for tracking, the most common response I got was a confused facial expression. Clark, however, had this to say: "If you have a better class around you then it's easier and more fun."

Ms. Rogers, our principal, told Mouth of the River that she "doesn't mind" adding more advanced classes. She'd like to offer kids more choice in the courses they have to take, although she seems especially enthusiastic about introducing more elective gym classes. However, she says "I don't really agree with tracking classes," citing some of the studies I mentioned above.

Mr. Zottoli, who teaches World Cultures, US History, and AP US History at ORHS, also says that he is "not a big tracking fan." However, he does like the idea of adding more class options or advanced classes for students who want to learn more about subjects they're interested in.

If Oyster River offered advanced classes or began tracking the ones it does offer, students would have better opportunities to learn. I don't see why we offer so few class choices for students who want to excel, and I don't see why we continue to offer so many classes with absolutely no regard for the intelligence or interest level of the students in them; a similar situation would be choosing the JV and varsity sports team by lottery.

It just doesn't make sense to me.

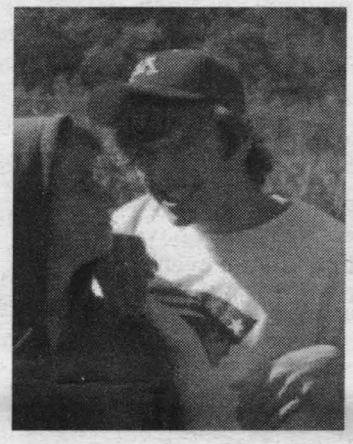
Halloween is the sweetest holiday of the year, beating out Easter, Valentine's Day, and Christmas.

The M.O.R. Inquirer

Sam KerriganOp-Ed Department

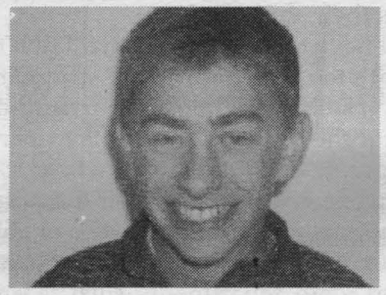
I'm sure most of you thought we were living in an ordinary town in New Hampshire. Well it turns out, you all thought wrong. The reality is we have some strange people living in our community and until recently they were in hiding.

Big Foot Sighted in Durham-During the month September there were several reports of Big Foot sightings in the Durham area. "I looked outside and saw an enormous beast tromping through my yard, he must have been 6'10'' 280," says George Smith, a resident of Durham for 12 years. Despite the giant creature's lack of intelligence it appears he poses no threat to humans. Dr. Sherman Edwards, a Big Foot Specialist, says, "Contrary to popular belief, Big Foot is not the monster people make him out to be; he's a softy at heart."



Boy by Day; Mantis by Night: Blake Janelle. If you think he's a handsome, athletic, popular, easy going, all around good kid you are absolutely right, but there may be some thing you don't know. It turns out Mr. Janelle has quite the little secret; he's half praying mantis. During the day Blake lives life like any other normal high school student, but once the sun goes down it's a whole different story. At the sign of darkness Blake immediately turns into a Giant Praying Mantis. "I've known Blake for years, and knowing now that he's half mantis doesn't change one bit; if anything it makes our relationship even better," says Blake's anonymous lover. On the other hand, some haven't quite got used to the change, "This is an outrage; if I had known he was an insect I wouldn't have eaten with him," explained a member of Blake's lunch table. "We should have seen it coming, the signs, the signs were everywhere."

Spike the Gremlin- Some of you may remember the days of Spike the Gremlin. In a 2005 edition of MOR he was compared to Joseph Gehling. Many took this as a light-hearted joke and got a little chuckle. What most people don't know is that Joe Gehling is actually related to Spike the Gremlin. Tracing back the family tree it appears Spike was Joe's Great Uncle. "People say Joe got his brains, I like to think I got his looks," boasted Owen Gehling, Joe's younger brother.



Seabastiosaurus-I am proud to say I work under the great Blair Kelley, our Editor in Chief. He's a good guy with an even better work ethic. But there is something you might not know about him. Blair Kelley actually has several characteristics of the Ankylosaurus, a dinosaur found in the Triassic period. Blair doesn't have a human skull. He actually has the skull of an Ankylosaurus, which is the reason for his extensively large forehead. The Ankylosaurus was also a very tough and stubborn dinosaur, two other qualities Blair possesses. "There is yet to be any scientific reason for why Mr. Kelley was born with a Dinosaur skull, but we're looking into it," says Paleontologist Jeffrey Bradford. "Mark my words; I will not rest until this strange phenomenon is

One quarter of all the candy sold each year is purchased between September 15 and November 10.

Cassie de AlbaOp-Ed Department

5 Bands You Should Be Listening To

Although I'm hardly the resident music expert here at Mouth of the River (hi, Greyson), I still have some pretty strong opinions about what I listen to. In my mind, the world would be a better place if people listened to better music: thus, this column. I'll be writing it every issue, highlighting five bands that I think everyone should be listening to. I'm going to focus a little more on the obscure side of the music world; otherwise you might be getting a monthly "Listen to Simon & Garfunkel!" column. In any case, I hope you give these bands a try. Enjoy!

TEGAN AND SARA: Tegan and Sara are pretty much my favorite band in the entire world; if someone doesn't like them, I honestly lose a little bit of respect for that person. This is how good they are. They're Canadian twin sisters who make music that's sometimes folk, sometimes rock, and sometimes roughly 90% synthesizers. There's really something for everyone here. You might have heard them opening for the Killers, or on TV shows like The L Word. They just released a concert DVD, and have a new CD coming out sometime next year.
ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Frozen, I Hear Noises, Speak Slow

ICE CREAM SOCIALISTS: The Ice Cream Socialists are a seven-member band from Georgia who play some of the weirdest music ever. But how can you argue with a song that goes "We will become astronauts when we're older/We will become human butterflies"? With no real distribution (they have their own record label, and the only way to get their new CD, Belles and Missiles, is online), they're officially indie rock. I guarantee that their music will put you in a good mood, especially when they are talking about sauerkraut or rapping over Pachelbel's Canon.
ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Day of the Danny, Luv Dem Cannonballz, Zagnut's Revenge

TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS: In these strange, strange musical times (as I write this, both the High School Musical soundtrack and Paris Hilton's new album are still on the Billboard Top 100), Ted Leo is making what the world really needs: honest-to-goodness MUSIC. It's rock, it's punk (he spent most of the 90s playing in DC band Chisel), and, occasionally, it's vaguely reminiscent of an Irish jig. Ted Leo is also the best living guitar player in the world, which I am of course fully qualified to say after learning how to play two chords on my mom's acoustic. If you've listened to Ted Leo and the Pharmacists and don't like them, you probably have no soul.
ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Me and Mia, Timorous Me, Bridges Squares

Being this pretentious is hard work

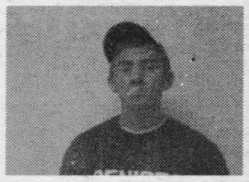
JP's
38 Main Street, Durham
868-7449
The best subs in town!

THE ARK: The Ark are probably the best gay Swedish glam-rock band I've ever heard, and the competition is pretty fierce in that particular category. Seriously, though, their music is ridiculously, ridiculously awesome, and they seem to wear matching outfits all the time. Plus, my dad likes them. That's a ringing endorsement if I ever heard one. Unfortunately, being Swedish, they tend to play mainly in Scandinavian cities I can't even pronounce, and the one time they came to Boston it was an 18+ show. But it's hard to hold that against them when they have the matching white jumpsuits on.
ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: One Of Us Is Gonna Die Young, Clamour For Glamour, Hey Modern Days

MR. T EXPERIENCE: If you like pop-punk, you will like the Mr. T Experience. If you like silly music, you will like the Mr. T Experience. If you identify with sentiments such as "Even Hitler had a girlfriend, so why can't I?" or "You said you loved me more than toast but less than a staple

At the turn of the century, cities were overcrowded and Halloween marked the time to let off steam by playing practical jokes such as **turning over out houses.**

Fall Sports Report



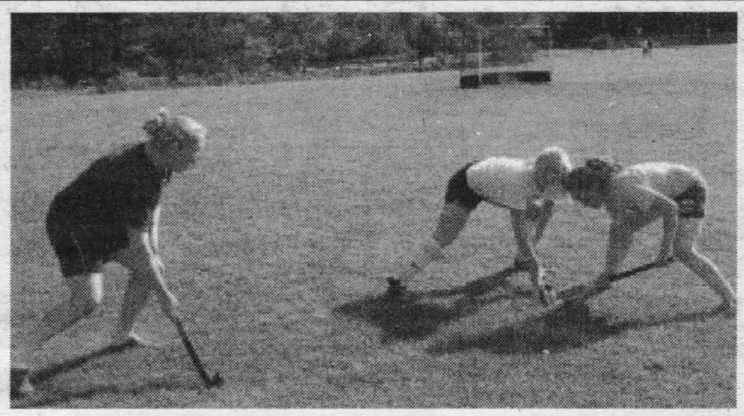
Joe Gehling Sports Writer

This fall has been a season that held many great games and was touched by controversy. The Boy's Soccer team, the Girl's Volleyball team, and the Boy's Cross Country team are all top teams in Class I. The Boy's Golf team, the Boy's Volleyball team, the Girls Soccer team, and the Girl's Field Hockey team made the playoffs as well.
Here is how the teams have done this season:

Boys' Soccer:
The Boys' soccer team is having a very good season this fall. They had one of the toughest schedules in all of Class I, and yet they still finished with a 13-3 record, and in third place in the Class. The Bobcats' defense is very solid, they only let up 10 goals in the entire regular season. Although the offense struggles to score goals at times, the team is one of the hardest outs in the Class. Two of their three loses were both 1-0, and they had numerous opportunities in both games to win, but failed to take advantage of them. Still the team looks as if it can be playing deep into the postseason.

Girls' Soccer:
The Girls' soccer team did not start their season off as well as they had wished. Although they won their first game 4-0 over Coe-Brown, they lost three in a row and then tied, before getting back on the winning side of a match. Their biggest game of the year so far was when they defeated the then undefeated and 1st place Hanover girls 2-0. After the game the Hanover coach told the OR Girls that they were the best team they've faced all season. Two games later the team was blindsided by the NHIAA. The team's leading scorer was ruled ineligible and they had to forfeit all of the games they had played so far. The Girls' went from 3-4-1 and in 15th place to 0-8-0 and in dead last in Class I. the Girls' bounced back magnificently though, and rose to 13th place in Class I, reaching the playoffs.

Girls' Field Hockey:
This year's Girls' Field Hockey team has more depth and talent than last years, but it is still to be seen if that can translate into a more successful season. This team tends to start games off slow, but picks up its' pace as the game goes on, and is playing very well by the end. The team made every game they were involved in a competitive one, never losing by more than two goals. They finished the regular season at 6-6-2 and in 10th place in Class I. The Girls' drew 3rd seeded Merrimack Valley in the Fist round of the playoffs and lost 4-0.



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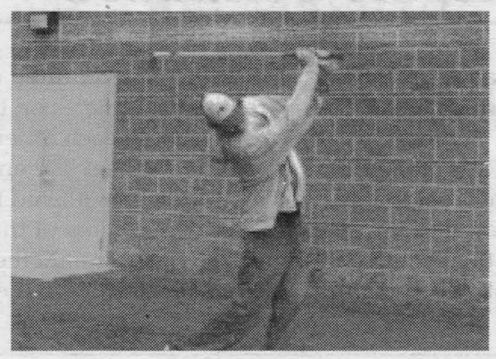
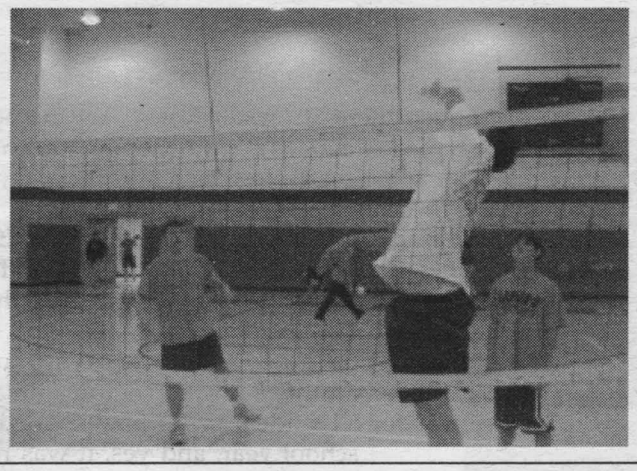
Some so-called vampire bats do drink blood, but they're not from Transylvania.

Fall Sports Report Continued

Golf:
This year's golf team is coached by Mr. Pollet and Mr. Sullivan, both of whom work at the Middle School. There are 14 players on the team, five seniors, six juniors, and three freshmen. Evan Lonstein says, "This team is the best we've had since I have been here, we are hoping to finish in the top five." Last year the team finished in 10th, and got the 11th seed for the state tournament. "We have a lot of ability 1-8. I feel we have one of the deeper teams in Class I." The golf team finished their season at 12-11 in 12th place in Class I, just barely making the final spot in the State Tournament. Jess Benoit placed 4th in the Girls' tournament, and the Boys team ended up in 9th place in the State.





Boys' Volleyball:
The Boys' Volleyball team is a very good team when they play as they are capable of playing. Coach Q feels that the team makes good strides, but then they take a step backwards. The team is putting their focus entirely on passing right now, instead of working on everything for a short amount of time and not getting very good at any of it. Next year, Coach Q plans on focusing on a different aspect of the game. There is only one senior on the team that is captained by Spencer Roux and Leslie Claridge, so you could consider this a rebuilding year for the Bobcat volleyball team. So far the biggest game of the year was against Salem, who is the best team in the state. Even though they lost, they proved that they can play with anyone. So look for this team to be very good next year, as they try to keep moving forward. The team lost in the First round of the playoffs to second seeded Londonderry 2-3.

Boys' Cross Country:
The Boys' Cross Country team is having an incredibly successful season this fall. The only team that is outrunning them in Class I is Con-Val. The team is captained by Eyob Eyualem, Tony Smith, Nate Bryant, and Eds Harding. The team's fastest runners are Eyualem and Ricky Hoyt. Tony Smith says of the team, "We have a very, very, very, very good chance to win Class I, and make it to New England's. We are a damn good team, even if you don't know about it." The Boys' have placed 1st in all but one of their Class I meets so far this year. Nat e Bryant says, "Eyob breaks records at pretty much every course we run at."

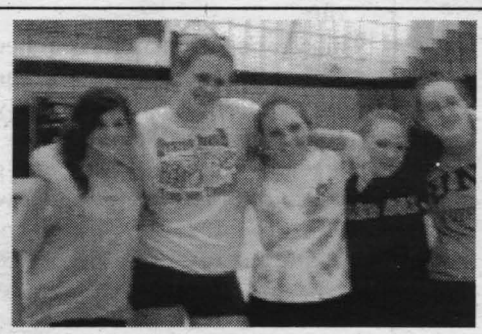
Girls' Cross Country:
The Girls' Cross Country team is captained by Lindsay and Rachel Rines, Rachel Raymond, and Sarah Butterfield. This year's team is very young and is inexperienced, but they seem to be improving with each and every race. Rachel Rines says, "I am very impressed with the way my teammates have come together and put in as much effort as they have so far. I believe if they continue training hard, there is nothing preventing us from having an amazing season." The team's goal is to finish as the runner-ups in Class I. The highest the team has placed was 3rd at the Bobcat Invitational, as of October 4.

Continued on the next page

While 82 percent of children take part in Halloween festivities, a surprising 67 percent of adults also join in the fun.

Fall Sports Report Continued

Girl's' Volleyball:
This year's Girls' Volleyball team is a very experienced and united club. The Girl's are pretty good this year, as they are one of the better teams in Class I. There are no new athletes on the team this year, and there is only one sophomore. The girl's all have a tremendous amount of trust in each other. Sasa Tang says, "We are very supportive of each other, and there is a lot of spirit on and off the court. We feel like one big family. Bobcat love!" Their biggest game of the season was their loss against Somersworth. Both teams played their very best and the match went to five games. The Girl's only lost by three, and it was the most intense game of the season according to Tang. She also said that the team was never down on themselves, and it was always at an incredibly intense level. The Girls' ended the regular season in 6th place, and played Plymouth Regional yesterday in the first round of the Class I playoffs.



That's A Red Card!

Emily Sievert Sports Writer

Sportsmanship: A word that has haunted the world of competitive sports for as long as most of us can remember. The American Heritage Dictionary defines sportsmanship as the "Conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports, especially fair play, courtesy, striving spirit, and grace in losing." But what do us high school athletes and students really think when we hear the word sportsmanship?

"I think sportsmanship is about respecting our rivals, and we do a pretty good job with that," says Evan Lonstein with an air of finality in his voice. Lonstein has been a member of the OR golf team since freshman year and considers their biggest rival to be Coe-Brown because the teams have to share a 'home' course.

When it comes to rivalries, sportsmanship sometimes may take a backseat in games or matches. It is unsportsmanlike when players swear during games that provoke yellow cards, or quietly chant a 'Good Game' cheer at the end of the game when it is meant to be yelled in respect to the other team. There have been instances where refs may unintentionally make 'bad' calls and instead of walking away, some teams will resort to arguing.

"As long as the game is under control, refs should just let the game go," says Senior Ben Vallier, talking mostly about his penalties during hockey season. New Oyster River Athletic Director, Don Maynard, says that he has not yet seen a problem with minor things like arguing with refs here at OR, but would like to see sportsmanship throughout our athletic teams and even fans, improve.

"I don't think our athletes have bad reputations. Unfortunately, I think it's our fans that could give us the bad reputation," stated Maynard in an exclusive interview. Maynard voiced his opinions about athletes who are normally well behaved, but may be provoked by fans on the side-line to act irrationally. One of his main concerns is when play-offs come around.

"A handful of students acting like dopes at play-offs, reflects upon our entire school," Maynard says as he shakes his head. He might have been recalling memories of a basketball game during the '04-'05 season, when our fans proceeded to throw eggs at cars (and people) belonging to the rival school of Pelham. Many instances like this have happened at intense games, but Oyster River students have dealt with their fair share of obscenities and snowballs as well. For instance, when our hockey team played Dover in 2005, Dover students threw snowballs at OR cars because of the resulting tie-game.

Plaques that now hang outside of Don Maynard's office show that Oyster River has had a good reputation over the years in the area of sportsmanship. There are two ways that OR and any other high schools can be recognized for sportsmanship. One way to be recognized is by individual team awards, which are very frequent here at Oyster River. Yet the not-so common way to be recognized is what Maynard is really hoping for. The school as a whole can be recognized for sportsmanship which unfortunately has not happened at OR since the '92-'93 school year.

"It's a hard thing to be recognized as a whole. If one person is too rough during a game, there's one less opposing school that votes for you," stated Maynard about the long stretch that OR has gone through without being recognized.

One thing that may have helped our school with sportsmanship was a workshop about athlete's attitudes toward their teammates and opposing teams. The lecture was for all students who play sports during any season of the school year, and yes, it was required. The lecture was mainly looked down upon by students who had to attend.

> *"If you have the moral fiber to be a good sport, than you do. If you don't, you don't, regardless of a two hour lecture. "*
> - Senior athlete Ben Vallier

"If you have the moral fiber to be a good sport, than you do. If you don't, you don't, regardless of a two hour lecture. The opinion of an adult doesn't really matter to kids our age especially when it's about something you don't want to hear," stated senior athlete Ben Vallier who attended the workshop. OR coaches did not have to attend the same lecture that the athletes did, but they had one of their own. Charlie Crull, the coach of the Boys Varsity Soccer Team, had a different attitude about the workshop.

"I don't think the workshop designed for the athletes was as beneficial as the one that the coaches had to go to. The athletes went in such a big group that it was almost useless. The coach's workshop was only a small group of us. It was definitely worth it then," he stated after being asked to recall the workshop.

Yet, according to a member of the OR administration, sportsmanship is not that big of an issue here at ORHS. Sure, there are the occasional yellow cards provoked by over aggressive athletes and the "hi-sticking" calls when hockey players get frustrated, but these are minimal things that our administration really isn't worried about.

"Part of each sports game or match is about the aggression involved. Its better to have a controlled amount of aggression than to have none at all," said Vice-principal Chris Evans. Evans has helped coach the Varsity Girls Soccer team this year, and has actually helped the team become more aggressive and hungry to win games.

Most student athletes are talked to before every game or match about sportsmanship, and how each game is supposed to "be clean and well-played." This just shows how important sportsmanship is to the refs of each game and especially the NHIAA. After all, the NHIAA mission statement reads "Winning is for the day, sportsmanship is for a lifetime."

U.S. consumers spend as much as $ 1.5 billion on costumes each year, and more than $ 2.5 billion on other Halloween paraphernalia.

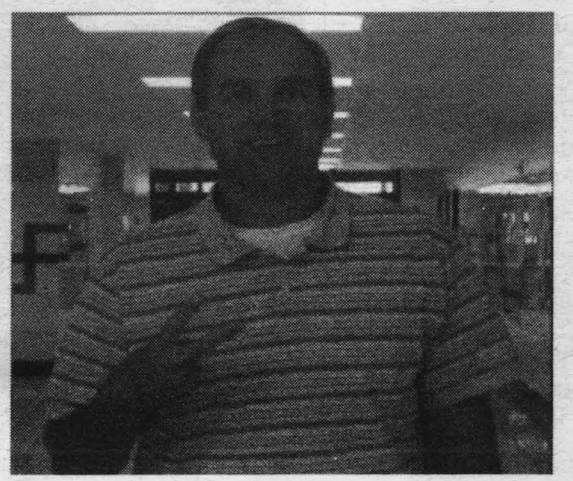
Joe Gehling
Sports Writer

An Interview With Mr. Don Maynard

This year is Mr. Maynard's first year as the Athletic Director at the High School. He no longer holds his Physical Education teaching position that he had held for 20 years. Maynard takes over for Carol Gephart who has relinquished her role as AD which she has held for six years, since the year 2000. He is looking forward to his new job, but realizes there are things he is going to miss about teaching PE.

When did you first begin teaching/coaching?

In the fall of 1984, my first year out of college, I was the Assistant Coach to Mr. Nichols. Then in 1985 I was the Reserve/JV soccer coach at Strafford Barrington. 1987 was my first year as a teacher.



What are your plans as Athletic Director this year?

I guess I should have a list of plans or something...

My goals are to see Oyster River win a sportsmanship award. I want the entire program to win the award, and not just one season. It is very hard to do because some of the people who vote don't always vote for the more deserving school. Sometimes they vote for schools that struggle athletically, in order to make them feel better about themselves.

Also, I want to try and help every athletic program at the school, for example, perhaps getting a scoreboard for field hockey and softball, replacing the soccer scoreboard, making programs for home games, and making sure officials are treated well.

Why did you take the job as AD?

I don't know (Laughs). Well, I have been teaching for what, 18 years, I have a master's in Athletic Administration, and I thought that this very well might be my last opportunity. If I didn't take the chance, I'd be wondering what it would be like if I did. I was kind of apprehensive because I knew there would be a lot of responsibility and headaches if I took the job, but the biggest reason that was holding me back was that I really enjoyed teaching PE and working with Mr. Morin and Mrs. McPhee. I still have a hard time not teaching PE. The other thing that I miss the most about teaching PE is not knowing the students. This year I don't know all of the freshman, next year I won't know the freshmen and the sophomores, and in four years I won't know the majority of the students.

What are your expectations for Oyster River Athletics?

Athletes should exhibit class every minute of the day. They should have the mind set to represent our school in a good way, and to never back down. The athletes should take pride in their sport, and feel that every sport is important. Also, they should always give everything they do their best shot.

What is your favorite sports memory (that you have been involved in)?

As a coach in 1995, the OR Varsity Basketball team played a Bishop Brady team that would end up graduating 5 college basketball players. Our gym was so packed that the fire department had to hang a sign on the door saying no one else was allowed in. There were bleachers set up on the stage, and there were people standing almost all the way to the MPR (the multipurpose room which was at the time the auditorium). Everyone knew how good Keith Friel was, but they did not realize how good his younger brother, Greg, was. Greg hit a fade-away three-pointer, and landed in the stands, and the fans basically threw him back onto the court.

What is your favorite sports movie?

Fever Pitch maybe, or League of Their Own.

What is your most embarrassing sports memory?

I was a junior in high school, playing on the basketball team. My coach put me in on defense, and I stole the ball, but tripped, and slid on my knees. I didn't want to travel so I just shot it, it went in, and I raised my arms in celebration. But my coach took me out, and then reamed me for showing off.

How much can you bench press?

(Laughs) That's none of your business. (…) Not as much as I used to be able to do.

Fall Sports Varsity Coach Profiles

Compiled by: Emily Sievert, Joe Gehling, Reegan Carbone, Bridget Hart, Ben Rollins, Tommy Lynch, Ben Novak, Emily Hobson, and Caylee Doyle

NAME: Jess Whalen
SPORT: Girls' Varsity Volleyball
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: 6 years at Oyster River, 3 years at Junior Olympics.
TEAM'S RECORD: 67-19
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: Pre-season every year. Just going in and getting started.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: I really don't have one.
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: I've got a lot of them, but I'd have to say, go hard or go home.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: I would say softball because I've played it my whole life and I enjoy it.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: I go into the gym, make sure everything is ready. Make sure everyone has everything that they need. I mentally just get ready. Before we have our 30 minute warm up, I make sure I have a ball in my hands and at the end of the warm up I hit the ball, before the buzzer.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: To play: volleyball. To watch: I'd say football.
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: To get as far in the tournament as we can. As long as we are successful in our smaller goals, it is a successful season.
FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: I'd have to say, Intense, Determined, Focused, Family, and Fun
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: They are very determined to go as far as they can in the tournament. They understand what it takes to win and they are willing to do it. Some of this team has been together for almost four years; they know how this team plays.

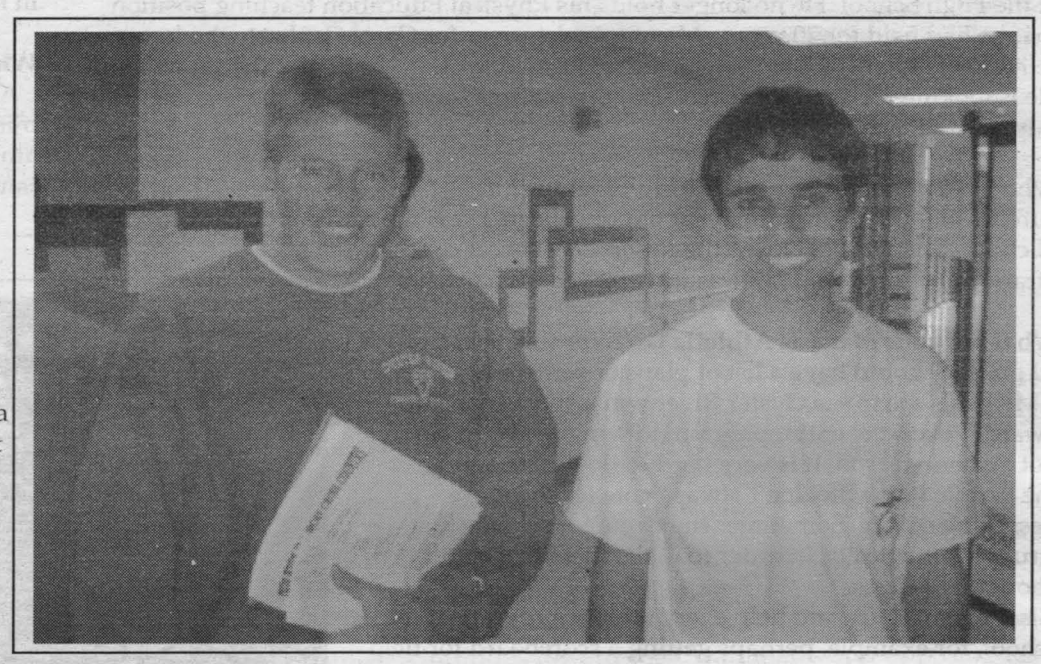
"As long as we are successful in our smaller goals, it is a successful season."
- Jess Whalen

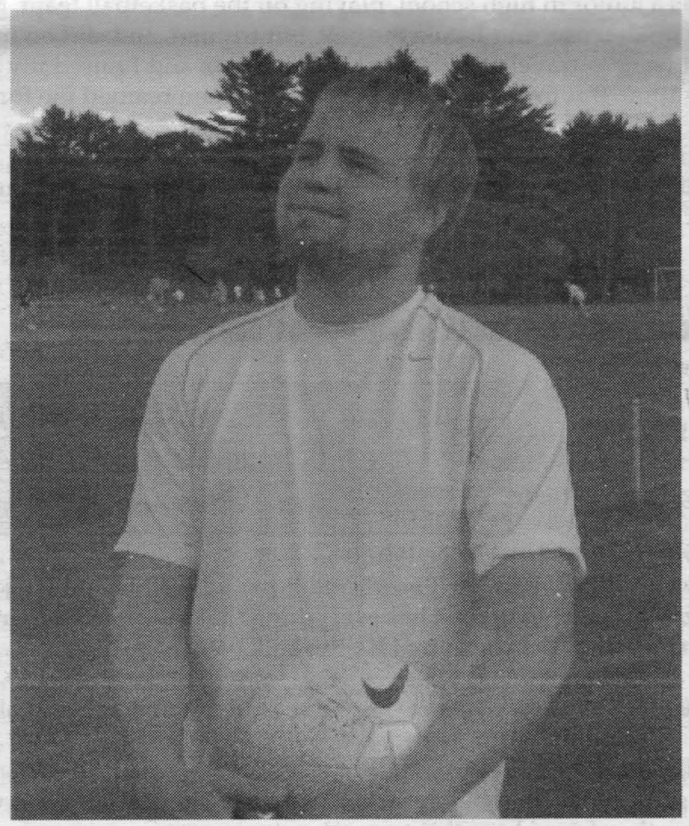
Continued on the next page

A pumpkin is really a squash, and comes from the same family as the cucumber.

Coach Profiles Continued

NAME: Greg Gephart
SPORT: Boys' Cross Country
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: I've been coaching boys Cross Country for 10 years, track for seven, and I helped Carol with girls cross country for a little while.
TEAM'S RECORD: We are second in class I and 4th overall in the state!
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: Last year, the winter track team came within two points of winning the state championship.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: I truthfully can't think of one.
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: I have a lot! I mostly use quotes that are about motivation and mental toughness.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: I would coach football because I used to play it.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: The day before the race we have a light work-out mentally and physically. The night before, we have a team dinner. The day of the race I leave the boys to themselves mostly, but an hour before the race, we begin warm-up and stretch.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: Right now, this [Cross Country] is my favorite sport, since it's something I do on my own.
FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: we are motivated, hard-working, and fun-loving. That's about it.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: They are a fantastic team! The boys are the fastest overall that Oyster River has ever had. They are terrific, and second in class I! Con-Val is the one team above us, but we are giving them a run for their money.





NAME: Charlie Crull
SPORT: Boys' Soccer
YEARS COACHING: 6
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: The day I saw Joe Gehling walk into the program.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: The second day (laughs), just kidding. Probably losing in the finals last year into the JV tournament.
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: Friendships born on the field of athletic strife are the real gold of competition. Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust.- Jesse Owens
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: Baseball
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: I listen to my iPod, write the line-up, and walk around the field.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: Soccer
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: To become a better coach, and to make sure that each player gets something positive out of the season.
FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: Tight, competitive, sports-men, skilled, determined.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: This year's team is a very skilled bunch that has yet to reach their true potential. I have not dealt with a nicer group in my coaching career. I enjoy the camaraderie the most, and that's the thing that can take this team to the next level.

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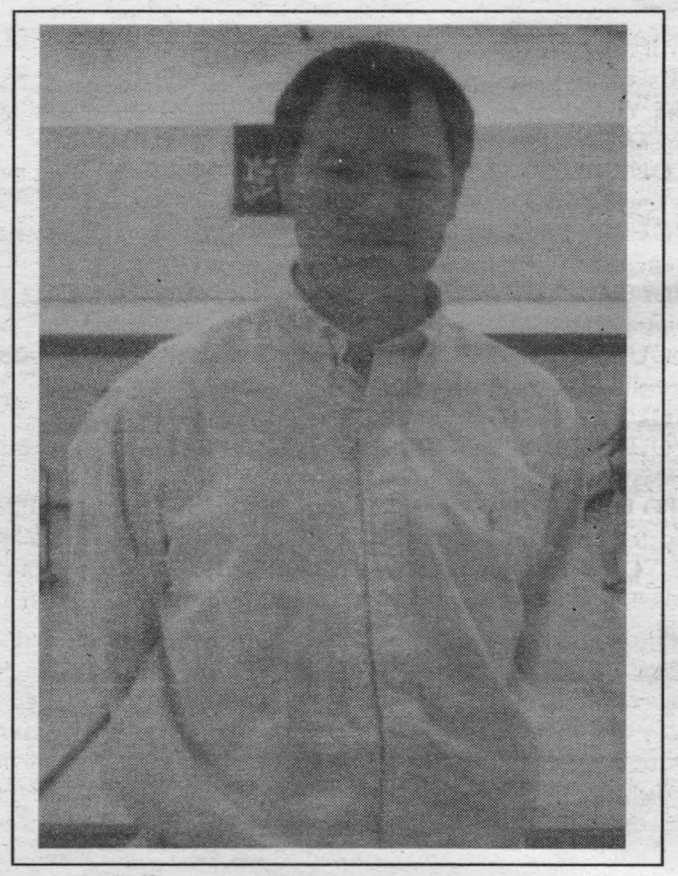
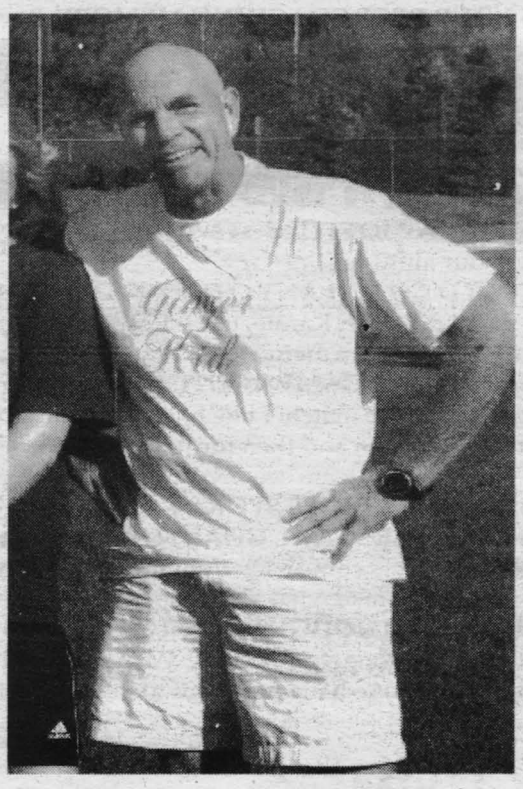
About 99% of pumpkins sold are used as Jack O' Lanterns at Halloween.

Coach Profiles Continued



NAME: Mr. Quagulieri
SPORT: Boys' Varsity Volleyball
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: (laughing) 11 years.
TEAM'S RECORD: I am not sure what our current record is but I know that through 2004 we were 46/81
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: Probably in 1999 when we went 0 for 11 in the regular season and we had mostly freshman and sophomores. Our goal was just to improve and we ended up third in the tournament.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: In 1997 having lost a non-rally score game against Pinkerton Academy in 45 minutes. We got back so early that we had practice.
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: Improvement in communication creates improvement for the entire team.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: Honestly, since I have coached many sports, no other sport. I like them all.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: Getting my kids, playing the line-ups and strategies and what changes will have to be made, then clocking and lots of paperwork. The team has to watch the JV game and get stretched out for warm-ups.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: Ice Hockey and Baseball
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: To make it to the semi-finals in the states.
FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: Inconsistent, un-unified, exciting…why five!...still maturing, and young.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: Our record doesn't show how well they can play, they just need to go out and stay consistent.



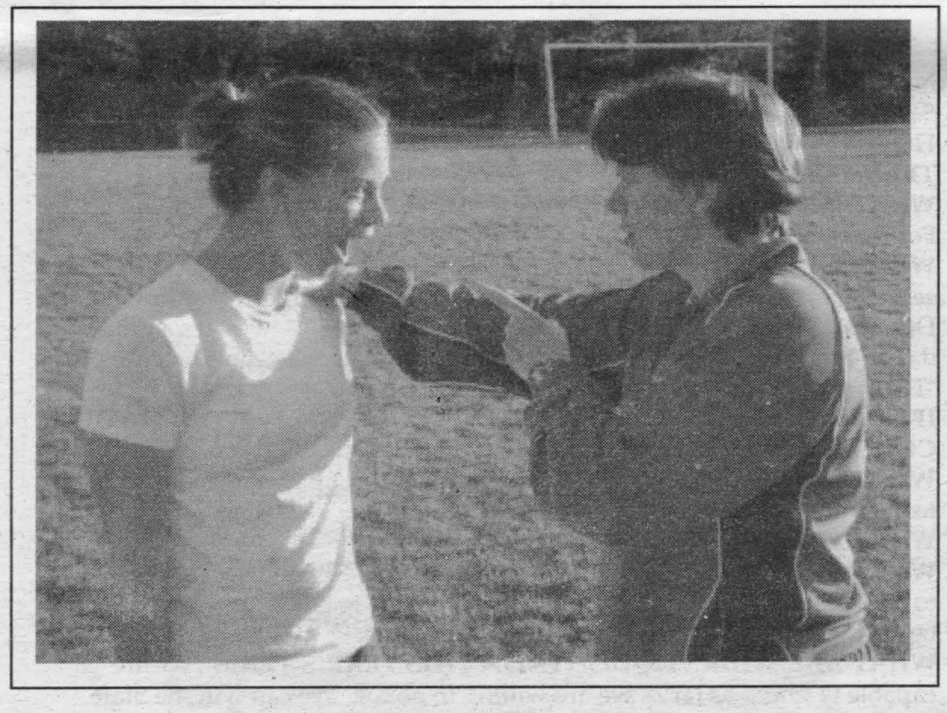
NAME: Mark Smallwood
SPORT: Varsity Field Hockey
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: 8 total, 5 at ORHS
TEAM'S RECORD: 3-4-2
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: Winning National Festival 2001
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: Pelham game of last season, getting the game stolen from us when it was rightfully ours
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: "It's a great day to be a bobcat", "Don't whine, don't complain, don't make excuses", "No mercy, no prisoners"
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: Does coach track, other than that, none.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: Warm up goalie, observe, try to get intensity up, speech before game starts
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: Golf
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: Team goal is to win the State Championship; Personal goal is to be the best coach I can be
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: We are capable of going as far as we are willing to go for. We can win the State Championship if we are willing to put in the work, or we could not even make playoffs. This is the best team at ORHS since I've been here. It's up to the team.

Continued on the next page

Halloween is one of the oldest celebrations in the world, dating back over 2000 years to the time of the Celts who lived in Britain

Coach Profiles Continued

NAME: Carol Gephart
SPORT: Girls' Cross Country
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: 17 years
TEAM'S RECORD: I have no idea, but we're always in the top 5.
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: I love watching new kids join the team each year.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: I don't really have one. I love coaching.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: I am going to stick with Cross Country
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: On Fridays we run a couple of miles to mentally train before a race.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: I love Running.
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: We want to finish top 3 this year.
5 WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: I don't really have five but, they're dedicated and willing to learn.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: This year has been a blast. We have one of our best teams and they have such a great attitude.



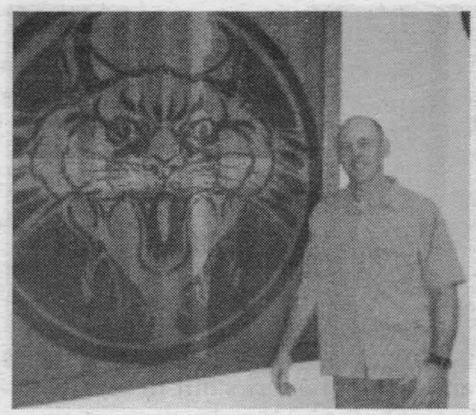
NAME: Linda Nelson
SPORT: Girls' Varsity Soccer
TEAM'S RECORD: 1-9
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: It was the year when Amanda Trojan and Jesse Sanatello were captains and we made it to the state finals after losing a lot of players the year before. The team just stepped up and played beyond their talent.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: Well, coming back from Hawaii and being told that your team's record is now 0-8, does that count?
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: Your attitude determines your altitude.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: Well I do coach Karate, but if I could coach anything else, I would coach golf, but I'm awful.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: I start the preparation in the first practice before the match. I like to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the other team and then form drills on them for that practice. I also don't like to let the team see my nervousness on game day.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: Karate
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: I want to make sure that players come back from the adversity that we have been dealt. I want them to take what has happened and learned from it.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: The team has started to make connections lately. We have positive attitudes despite what has happened. We have the talent to make it all the way, we just have to want it.

Continued on the next page

Washington State passed a law in the school district Puyallup which banned Halloween celebrations in part because witch costumes have offended local Wiccans.

Coach Profiles Continued

NAME Bill Sullivan
SPORT: Golf
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU COACHED: This is my first year coaching the golf team. I love playing golf and thought that coaching would be a good way for me to stay connected with it. I also knew most of the kids playing and knew they were great kids.



TEAM'S RECORD: Our record right now 11-10. We have one more match today against Coe Brown and St. Thomas.
WHAT IS YOUR BEST COACHING MEMORY: Sweeping Portsmouth and Kennet this past week was a great feeling. The two wins put us over .500 for the first time since our first match of the year.
WHAT IS YOUR WORST COACHING MEMORY: I haven't been coaching long enough to have any bad memories, but I will say that I truly dislike when someone doesn't qualify for a match. Everyone tries so hard to do well but we can only take 8 kids to each match.
DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO/MOTIVATIONAL PHRASE: I'm a big fan of the saying, "Attitude reflects leadership", from Remember the Titans. I'm also becoming a fan of Tim McDonnell's saying, "If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?" I don't necessarily believe in the saying 100%, but I like how it sounds.
IF YOU COULD COACH ANY OTHER SPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU COACH: You know that I coach lacrosse in the spring but if I could coach another sport it would be football. I think the scheming and planning for an opponent would be great. I also think the physical nature of football would be perfect for lacrosse players. It would help our team tremendously.
WHAT IS YOUR PRE-GAME ROUTINE: Being new to the sport of golf I have not developed any pre-game routines. We tried touching a ceramic frog for good luck but it didn't seem to work.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT: If I could play one sport every day for the rest of my life it would be golf. There is nothing like being outside and challenging yourself mentally as well as physically.
WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR THE SEASON: My personnel goal for the season was to learn as much about coaching golf as I could. I wanted kids to enjoy playing as well as push themselves to become better. I also wanted the team to make the tournament at the end of the year. If things go well today in our final match all of my goals would have been met. I'll have to set the bar a little higher next year!
FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR TEAM: Five words for our team would be, energetic, likeable, fun, mature (on the course), consistent
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM: This year's team is quite a group of student athletes. I've been fortunate enough to either teach some of them in class or coach some of them in lacrosse. I knew what type of people they were before I started but have been pleasantly surprised by how much I've enjoyed spending time with them. I've been able to talk to each of them not only about golf, but about college choices, or other activities that they are involved in. They have grown up so much in the years that I've know them and I'm very proud of what they have accomplished this year on and off the course. Regardless of our final placement in the state tournament, I feel this year has been very successful. Quite a few different kids have qualified for matches and almost everyone has played well enough to have their score count towards our team total. That says a lot about the team's consistency.

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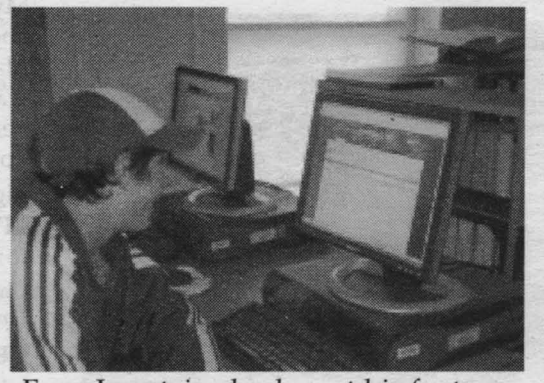
New Jersey has passed laws that make it illegal for registered sex offenders to give out Halloween candy.

Fantasy Sports

Joe Gehling Sports Writer

The chances of becoming a professional athlete are seven in ten thousand, according to Becoming an Adult by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Barbara Schneider. Because of those odds, many people participate in the next best thing besides the Pro's: fantasy sports.

Fantasy athletes get to live out their dreams as managers of big league teams. For many people it is the only time they will ever win money because of sports. Fantasy sports also apply to those who are athletically challenged. They can beat even the most athletic person in a legitimate sport. Fantasy sports attract all ages, the older fantasy athletes can prove that they are better managers/coaches than their favorite teams, while the younger athletes get to dream of being one of those select few drafted, and of playing alongside their heroes.



Evan Lonstein checks out his fantasy football team in the library.

When you play fantasy sports you are the coach, general manager, and owner all at the same time. You draft real-life players for your team, then you can choose to drop or sign players depending on how well they play in their real games. You choose who you want to 'play', and you get points depending on the actual statistics of your players in their real game(s). Every week you play a different fantasy team, and go head to head.

Andy Caswell says some people play "to have fun imagining that they are big time players and money makers to compensate for their small insignificant lives." According to rdu.news14.com there are 37 million Americans that have fantasy football teams alone. Some of these people have more than one team in each sport. Challenger, Gray, and Christmas Inc, a Chicago-based consulting group reported that on average fantasy athletes spend 50 minutes at work each week doing fantasy sports. This time will cost employers $1.1 billion in lost productivity each week.

Evan Lonstein's reasoning behind playing fantasy sports is, "It keeps me very interested in all the sports, as well as gives me the feeling of being a GM in a real professional league against other teams." Lonstein is involved in fantasy football, baseball, basketball, hockey, Pro Pick 'Em, College Pick 'Em, salary cap football, survival football, golf, and auto racing. Lonstein has 12 different fantasy sports going at one time.

You can set up a private league and accept people into your league by invitation only, or you can join a public league, where anyone who wants could play with you. There are Pick 'Em leagues where you pick which team is going to win each game. The Pick 'Em leagues are for professional and college sports, with the biggest being the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Those who are against fantasy sports argue that it is a waste of time, and that those who play discuss the happenings in their fantasies far too often. Pat Jackson says, "It gets really annoying when day after day my friends talked about fantasy baseball. It really, really bugged me." Jackson is not against other fantasy sports however. He says he simply does not like baseball. It is very difficult to find someone who is against fantasy sports. It seems as if people either play and love them, or do not care either way.

People play in fantasy sport leagues to make the professional leagues more fun to watch and follow. By playing fantasy sports, people are forced to follow more than one team, and care about what happens in almost every game. Even though many people follow their local or childhood team in great detail, fantasy sports make those who participate follow other teams as well, if they have players on those teams.

Fantasy sports provide an excuse to watch more sports every day, especially in the fall. The fall holds an incredible amount of fantasy action. The baseball season is still underway, and many fantasy leagues are in the playoffs. Both the professional football season and college football seasons have started, the hockey season is about to start, auto racing is still going, golf continues, and basketball is in the very near future.

Now that the internet is a common commodity, fantasy sports have taken off. Before the internet and computers, the only way to play fantasy sports was to keep track of all of the points yourself. One had to find all of the stats for every one of their players and then compute their point totals based on those stats by hand. Now the internet can do all of that for you, and all you need to do is check to see how your team is doing.

Fantasy sports consume millions of people, and more are playing every year. Greyson Ersick says, "Fantasy sports are like Dungeons and Dragons for the kids' who do not play Dungeons and Dragons."

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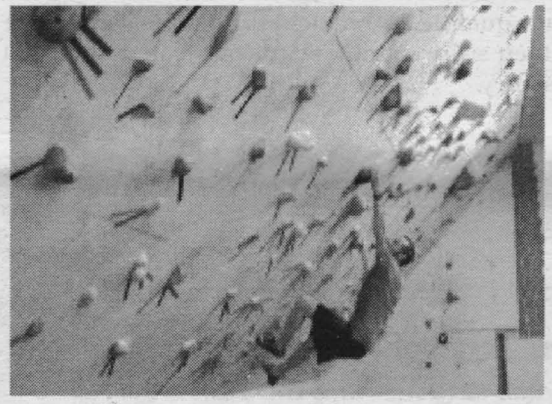

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What Is It and Why Don't We Have It?

Emily Sievert Sports Writer

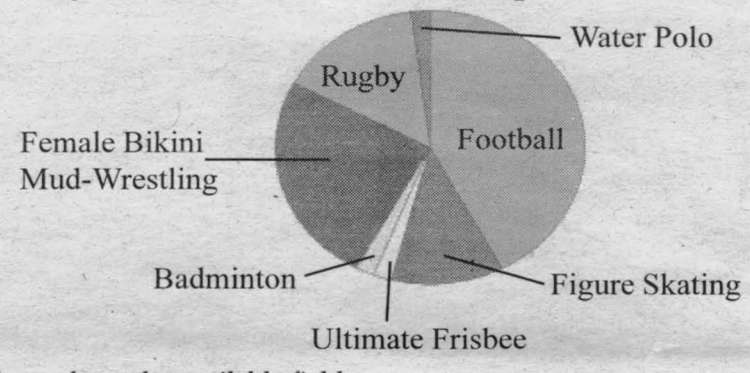
All throughout the Oyster River School District, there are improvements happening constantly. For example, as we speak, the Middle School athletic fields are being flattened and remodeled to include a new scoreboard and new caging around the baseball field. However, at the High School, there are three improvements that have not yet happened, and in some cases, for a reason. Below is a list of some improvements that are just waiting to happen.

What: New/More Athletic Fields
Why: To my knowledge, the addition of new sports fields was rumored to be happening at some point in 2005. The one problem was that the decision had to be passed by the town. Unfortunately, when talking to Principal Laura Rogers, she put an end to the rumor of new sports fields by making it clear that a bond that was issued in the middle of last year had not been passed, failing to buy any new fields for the OR school district. However, Mrs. Rogers did express her disappointment, saying that new field space could always be used.

Pros:
-If there were more fields in the district's area, sports like football could potentially be offered.
-New fields would mean better field conditions. AKA: the baseball infield would not make up 50% of the JV soccer fields goal box.
-More fans could be accommodated at a bigger area because of more bleacher space and just more room.

Cons:
-We would have to drive to the sports fields for any games or practices, so our home field could potentially not feel like home.
-Fewer fans might come to games because of new location and farther drive.
-Gas money would have to be accounted for when busses would have to transport the athletes and we all know how much gas can be.

If Oyster River Offered Another Sport, What Should It Be?



What: A Football Team
Why: As many of you know, the Oyster River School district has never had a Football Team as part of their fall sport offering. Most of you would argue the fact that there are not enough athletes to fully support a 50-75 man team. For instance, Don Maynard, the ORHS athletic director, said that there would need to be a Co-Ed football team to even meet the required number of players. However, what if the district had started football at an early age? Would people play? Below is a list of pros and cons that put the topic of a football team in perspective. Let's see what you think.

Pros:
-An exciting sport for OR to watch during the fall season.
-Most of the bigger schools in our area support football teams, so competition would not be an issue.
-We could charge for games, helping out OR revenue or at least supporting the cost of the team.
-According to the survey: (explain the results of the survey)

Cons:
-We do not have the available field space.
-Because of the high cost of football equipment, either the players would have to support themselves or the school would suffer a major deficit in funds.
-We don't have the funding. Gym teacher Mr. Morin was nice enough to put the money issue simply. "Money is difficult to come by for anything. It's not always just there."
-Athletes are so widely spread over the rest of the fall sports that teams like boys' soccer, cross country, golf and volleyball would most likely see a major downfall in participants.

What: A new scoreboard for the outdoor fields
Why: As many of you know, we have a considerably small scoreboard centered near the varsity soccer field and the outfield of the baseball diamond. However, what many of you may not know is that there was talk of getting a new one. When interviewing the athletic director, Don Maynard, he provided some valid reasons why that had not yet happened. One good reason is that, it is a fine scoreboard for the sports that it has to accommodate for. I mean, it tells the score and the time left in the game, we do not need a spot for the number of the down or a penalty clock. Another reason that is not well known is that the scoreboard was dedicated to a very talented male athlete, Brian Swift, who died during his high school years. He excelled in the sports of soccer and baseball, which explains why the scoreboard is out there and why it's positioned like it was. Maynard's original thoughts on getting a scoreboard were not to take that one down, but just to get another one that could be used for softball and field hockey. Is a new scoreboard a worthwhile improvement?

Pros:
-A new scoreboard could potentially come with a spot for the inning or half that the game is in, and could also be bigger.
-When fans watch field hockey and softball, they would not have to ask their neighboring fan what the score was, or how much time was left.
-Getting a new scoreboard for field hockey and softball, would be fair since the soccer and baseball fields already have one and a good improvement to our sports fields.

Cons:
-A new scoreboard would, of course, cost money. (roughly $2,800)
-We would have to have someone willing to work the scoreboards for 4 fields instead of just two.

The current scoreboard in between the soccer and baseball fields.

Farmers in Pennsylvania Dutch Country painted hex signs on their barns to scare off witches.

The Villains of ORHS